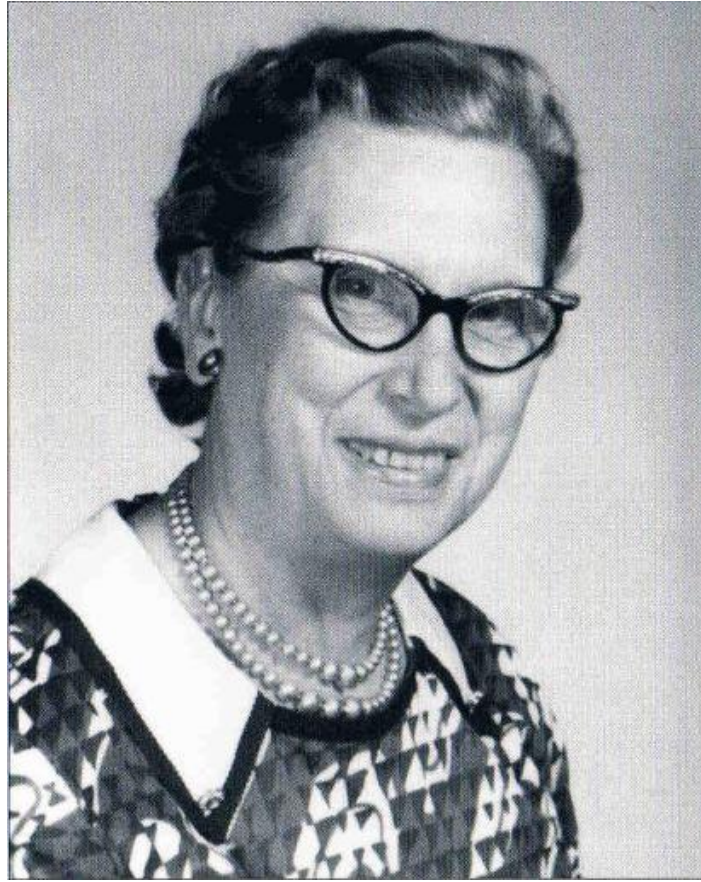


Introduction



Doris Begor Morton

In 1928 a young teacher named Doris Begor came to Whitehall to teach students of the local school. She settled in, and in the ensuing years she taught Elementary Subjects, Business Math, Earth Science, Ancient History, English, and for twelve years was the High School Librarian. She never taught the subject for which her MA degree from St. Lawrence prepared her; that was Home Economics. Later she took summer school courses and earned her MS degree in Library Science from SUNY, Albany. She retired in 1970 after 42 years in the Whitehall Schools.

In 1943 Miss Begor married John Morton, breaking a school rule that female teachers could not marry. When the School Board let her stay on, several other female teachers followed suit. That was the beginning of many innovative actions of a forward thinking and acting woman.

She was President of the Whitehall Teacher's Association and President of the Tri-County Teachers Association. She was a delegate to the House of Delegates of the New York State Teacher's Association, and was a Life Member of the National Education Association. She was active in the formation of the New York State Classroom Teacher's Association (the forerunner of New York State United Teachers)

and was Editor of its publication, Brief Case. She is listed in the 1966 Who's Who in American Education.

Through acquaintances in her new community, Mrs. Morton became interested in the history of Whitehall and its beginnings. In 1951, at the rejuvenation of the Whitehall Historical Society, she was appointed Town and Village Historian. She had begun several years earlier to research Philip Skene, founder of the original settlement. Her research took her west to Michigan as well as several northern states, England and Scotland. Since she used summers for that research, it took twelve years to bring the biography Philip Skene of Skenesborough to print. Historian Jane Lape, writer of the foreword in the book, identifies it as a "labor of love for her adopted town".

When the two hundredth anniversary of the founding of Skenesborough was near, historian Morton influenced the community to work on a giant celebration and found an unused canal building to become the display place of historic artifacts donated by the residents of Whitehall. It was so popular that the town was able to convince New York State to deed the use of the building as long as it remained a museum. It continues today following the goals of a dedicated woman to share, with others, our local history and evidence of the lifestyle of people in Whitehall through more than two centuries.

She served as President of the Historical Society for fourteen years, and after that, worked with the Society to create the Historic Research Center on the second floor of the library, contributing many of her own records and documents. With volunteers she met at the Center each week to document thousands of births, deaths, and marriages alphabetically, as well as to categorize hundreds of photographs donated to the Society. Her devotion to local history was recognized with the Daughters of the American Revolution Medal of Honor, given only to non-members. She was past President of the Washington County Historical Society, and served eleven years on the Washington County Historic Preservation Committee.

Always community minded Mrs. Morton served nine years as a Director of the Whitehall Chamber of Commerce. She was designated Whitehall "Woman of the Year" in 1973. She also served on the Town Planning Board for several terms as well as on the Urban Cultural Park Commission.

Writings by Mrs. Morton include numerous pamphlets and research papers, the booklet Whitehall, Birthplace of the United States Navy, Philip Skene of Skenesborough, and a weekly column for two newspapers written over twenty-five years.

She decided that a pictorial history was the way to bring Whitehall history to as many people as possible. This reprint volume was the brainchild of a woman who continued to try to provide information about Whitehall and the people who have lived there that would be of eternal interest. It has been augmented in a manner that would be acceptable to her. She was always looking to improve her work.

Doris Morton's interest in people and history is evident; there are many who remember her fondly and with admiration, in particular one who will always be grateful for a close friendship. (Carol Greenough)

The above was first printed on the back cover of "DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY, Second Edition"

Preface

This compilation of Doris B. Morton's writings converted to digital format has been five years in the making. The original newspaper articles were fragile and deteriorating to the point of requiring extreme care when attempting to read them. Also, there was no way to search information by subject or date. It required reading through all the articles each time information was requested. Ms. Carol Greenough and Kenneth Bartholomew worked together on a volunteer basis to preserve this valuable resource of Whitehall History for future researchers. It was completed in August of 2009.

Animals

The Whitehall Times
February 10, 1983

The Mule (Year Unknown)
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Today it is often forgotten that the mule furnished the transportation power of the canal. But in earlier times it was a common sight around Whitehall to see mule barns near the locks, the bridge leading from the lower bridge to the tow path, the winter boarding of the animals by hundreds on nearby farms, and the sight in springtime when the mules were brought into the village hitched by fourteens to resume their work in hauling cargo boats.

The editor of The Whitehall Times once answered a toast thrown at him about mules.

The toast: "Mules, the backbone of the raging canal." His reply: "I love a mule. I will stand to his back until his ears drop off, if you will only chain down his heels. For four years I once watched this noble beast hauling boats on the canal while I hauled in my salary as canal collector with promptness and dispatch."

The mule has done more for commerce than any other animal in existence, even the American eagle. Like the ballet dancer, it carries its attractions in its heels and, - like the ballet dancer, the mule knows how to use them. A good mule is the concentrated essence of dynamite, nitroglycerine, and Susan B. Anthony's tongue. A canal without a mule would be like Hamlet without a Booth, Joe Cook without a dictionary, Dennis Kearney without the Chinese, Bob Ingersol without Bob Butler, and a Chicago girl - without number eleven shoes.

When we need a good fresh' joke, we saddle the mule. When we want something with a hornet's nest tied to it, we tickle the mule's heels. When we realize the sublime jokes which fertile brains have evolved from the mule, is it any wonder the animal once

in a while kicks back? His “heehaw” comes to us like angels whispering — when they have the croup.

But just pause; if I have said anything in favor of the mule, remember that I am only trying to do right by the animal that furnished the steam for every canaler’s team-boat, the salary for every canal official, the butt for every paragrapher’s joke. The mule is the most successfully abused creature that stands up, with the single exception of a newspaper editor.

The Whitehall Independent Wednesday, April 4, 1984

Peanut, Dick, and the American Express Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Who were Peanut and Dick? A beautiful large team of gentle horses, the memory of which lingers in the minds of some Whitehallers. These brown animals belonged to the express company. They drew the express wagon in all kinds of weather, in blinding rain, and in snow storms, faithfully and patiently starting and stopping on the delivery routes.

The last drivers of the team were Henry and Howard Bruce. They had the full care of the team and the express wagon, feeding and grooming them in George Shattuck’s barn on Williams Street near the Rush residence. Claude Bruce remembers riding behind them as a small boy and George King recalls the beautiful pair they made. Other Whitehallers must have a recollection of them as they performed their duty.

In November 1926 the speed of Peanut and Dick was not in keeping with the demands of the times, so they were retired to be housed in George Chadwick’s barn, the second site south of the armory. Their place was taken by a Ford truck that took over the delivery of the express service.

Henry Bruce drove the truck until 1949, when he retired. After that, various agents took over the duty some of whom were Eugene and George Noonan, and Mr. Parker. The import of bread was an example of one product delivered by express. The loaves were brought in crates to the village on the morning train from the south. It was a perishable product. Monday morning was an especially critical time for weekends depleted the supply. A would be purchaser would often be told “We’re all out of bread. It will be in on the morning train.”

At the time of the retirement of Peanut and Dick, William Farrell related some history of the express company. He told that his father James Farrell was the first person to drive the delivery horse for the company in 1848 when the railroad came to Whitehall. From then until 1926 horse drawn vehicles were used for the delivery of freight. James Farrell was also the first person to have a contract to carry the mail from the post office and the train. He met with rough conditions as he had to wallow in the mud of unpaved streets and no street lights.

William Farrell himself entered the employ of the National Express Company in 1873 and worked in the office for three years. He then became an express messenger and was the oldest messenger in service in New York State and one of the best known men

along the railroad between Albany and Whitehall in 1926. So great was the esteem in which he was held that he was never bonded.

Carrying the mail is brought to mind in this connection with carrying the express. The mail sacks were picked up at the post office and delivered to the mail car and the sacks for Whitehall taken from that car and on to the post office. Some names in the service were Paul Jasmin, Mr. Gallagher, and Mr. LaFleur. I'm sure other names and experiences can be given to the historian for both of these services, now no longer a part of Whitehall life.

The Whitehall Independent Wednesday, December 4, 1985

Bear Hunting Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Did a bear killing make news this fall? Writing in 1922 brought forth the story of a bear hunter of that time. It was triggered by this event.

A claim was made against the D & H Company by John Harris, a farmer who lived near the Kinner Bridge. Six of his cows had been killed on the track and another was badly injured. He claimed the cattle had been driven from his field by a bear that had been near the bridge for some time. Through their fear of the animal they had taken refuge on the track and were killed by the locomotives. Other farmers had had cattle scared by bruin at various times.

Engineer Doug Merrill had seen the bear in the fields and said he would be happy to have a try at it. It seems Doug was called the "Leather Stocking" of Clinton County. His father had been a pioneer farmer of that county near Sciota. The first calf increase on his farm had been killed by a bear. Doug swore vengeance on any of its relatives. He roamed the hills and woods and it was related that it was nothing for him to kill ten or twelve during a vacation in the North Country. He kept a diary of his killings with notches on his gun stock.

Over the years he had watched the number in the wild decreased. About eleven years ago he had been out looking for a cougar when he discovered the fresh track of a bear. Searching the area he came upon a bear that had just come out of hibernation and of course killed it. The pelt was a beautiful one and well haired. It made the 99th kill, if he took the one down by Kinner's bridge he would mark up his 100th

The score on the gun tallied eleven grizzlies, fifty-three blacks, twenty brown, and fifteen cubs. Besides being a hunter, Doug was also a good fisherman. He was a most popular and well liked engine driver.

A toy fad right now is the brown bear which comes in all sizes, and even some dressed to represent actual people. I wonder if the unpleasant grunt of the bear or the scratchy squeal of the cubs has been duplicated.

The Whitehall Times
November 21, 1985

Some bits and pieces of
Whitehall In 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Stories of the supposedly extinct panther are cropping up in the magazines today by people who are familiar with the woods. In 1922 many wild animals were being seen in Whitehall, driven out of the forest because of the fires, foxes, bob cats and panthers (puma, cougar, and mountain lion). Murray Brown saw a panther near Clear Pond. Then there was Edward Jones' panther story. "Deacon Jones, a hunter and trapper, was hunting with his dog near Ed Moore's. A panther came out of the woods with a loud scream. If you know the scream of a panther you never get over hearing in your mind its sound. It has the horrifying and terrifying sound of a woman in extreme agony. This one took after Ed's dog. All three men, dog and panther went down the side of the mountain. It was [lie panther that gave up and went back into the woods.

The Whitehall Times
December 4, 1986

A Trophy
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Some people like to have mementoes of the hunt on their walls. Usually the head is the result of their prowess in the field of sport, hunting or fishing. But a trophy reported in December 1886 was of a different kind. The partnership of Skeels and Martin was a meat market. In it was displayed the head of a full-blooded Jersey bull which Home Martin had prepared himself for a wall ornament.

It seems this was the head of "Charley Bell" with a famous pedigree. He was a vicious creature killed for prudential reasons. Editorial comment was that the formidable head impressed one with the idea that it would be very unpleasant to have met its owner in a treeless field.

The Whitehall Times
September 18, 1986

The Monument to Pink
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

This was the year, 1886, that General John Hammond of Civil War fame erected a monument to his horse that carried him through 88 skirmishes and 34 battles in the South.

The horse, named Pink, lived to be 31 years old. His monument, inscribed, is a twelve foot high gray column that stands facing the soldiers' monument which is in the small park in the center of Crown Point. Look for it at the left side of the road going north.

The Whitehall Times
July 24, 1986

(Title unknown)
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In August Mose Blanchard and his son Edward bagged 23 woodcocks, their catch for one day. They shipped the birds south and received \$1.25 for each pair. This was a record.

A creepy snake story from Hulett's Landing. A summer visitor sat on a rock at waterslide reading a newspaper. On hearing the newspaper rustle she looked down to see a rattler across her lap with its head on the paper enjoying the sun. With a terrific scream and lunge she jumped into the lake from which her brother rescued her. The reptile had seven rattles and a button. Remember this was one hundred years ago and not likely to happen in these vacation times.

The Whitehall Independent
March 19, 1986

Some Street Events in 1886
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

What about an exhibit of horseflesh in our streets today consisting of the Beechman stallions' offspring? Five of them. Gilbert Hunt owned two stallions; a chestnut, eleven months 27 days weighing 910 pounds and a bay, ten months 20 days of 700 pounds. Fred H. Smith owned two mares; one a chestnut eleven months old, 660 pounds and a black, 16 months, 640 pounds. Sereno Hollister was the owner of a five year ten month old bay, 680 pounds. The animals were deemed splendid specimens of equine flesh.

The Whitehall Independent
February 19, 1986

(Title Unknown)
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Merchant Chauncey Bates evidently was a cat lover as was Charles Quigley who used to brag about his cat's exploits. Chauncey related this story of his cat. Three times a day she would go to the cash register and count out enough change to buy herself a meal

of meat. Then she tripped across the street to Alfred Carver's meat market and laid down the money. George Bartholomew cut off the desired amount which the cat took into her mouth and returned to Mr. Bates' store to enjoy her feast. Mr. Bates promised certified copies of this cat story.

The Whitehall Times
August 1, 1985

A True Dog Story
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In Dresden in 1885 farmer Barrett owned a cocker spaniel. For over five years the dog had shown a great love for geese, especially the goslings. She swam in the water among them. They in turn accepted her presence. People enjoyed watching them.

One day the dog disappeared. She was mourned for a week when she appeared starved and haggard. She was promptly fed but after gorging herself she seized a bone and disappeared again in the thick underbrush.

A few days later the dog reappeared in worse condition than before. But this time a string was tied around her neck and when she whined to be let loose her master followed her at the end of the string. She seemed delighted that he came along. Mr. Barrett worked his way through the bushes and stopped only when the dog stopped before the nest of a large white goose. He loosened the string. The goose rose up from the nest, showing nine large blue tinted eggs. The dog wagged her tail and then carefully arranged her body so that it covered all the eggs. She mutely begged understanding from her master.

Mr. Barrett visited the nest frequently. A week later nine lively goslings appeared with the delighted dog. The goose led her family down to the lake and all plunged in, where they were greeted with "three cheers and a tiger" as the editor of the Whitehall Times explained it.

The Whitehall Independent
December 19, 1984

(Title Unknown)
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The first horse race on the ice was held 24 December between Phineas Benjamin's Speculator and Harding's bay horse of Comstock.

The Whitehall Independent
July 4, 1984

(Title Unknown)
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Whitehall Stock Improvement Company was incorporated for the *improvement* of breeds of horses. *The* men involved were Whitehall and Dresden citizens. Francis E. Fish, Gilbert H. Hunt, Charles Mellon, P. S. Benjamin, Sereno Hollister, B. A. Jakway, Frank Jakway, R. M. Witherbee.

The Whitehall Times
April 26, 1984

(Title Unknown) April 1884
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

During this month, five lawyers went on a travel junket. Two of them were Judge Potter and J. Stanford Potter. Their trip took them for a stay in Florida and on to California. Their reporting in long articles gave many travel notes. One, a novelty in these days, was an alligator hunt. They managed to kill an 11-foot prey. The skin was brought home and shoes were made for these "Roaming Lawyers," as they termed themselves. Besides the big one that provided the shoes, the party shot ten other alligators.

The Whitehall Independent
Nov 16, 1983

(Title Unknown) October 1884
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A most exciting race took place 29 September when Seth McFarran's mare, John O'Rourke's horse, and Nelson O'Donnell's horse competed, best 3 in 5. The account says shots were taken of the drivers and the caroms they made. (Doesn't anyone have some pictures to be preserved by copying?)

The Whitehall Times
June 23, 1983

(Title Unknown) June 1884
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

George Knight was trying to make the area into a fine racing arena. The first races of the summer were this month. However, the local horses of Orwell, Fair Haven, and Granville were not entered when their owners discovered some noted racers were to run.

The Whitehall Times
May 19, 1983

Another Horse Experience May 1884
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Bartholomew nearly drowned while crossing the ford at East Bay on their way to North Whitehall. They got out of the ford and their wagon tipped over. Mrs. Bartholomew was going down the second time when her husband caught her in the deep water and swam ashore with her, leaving the horse and wagon in the water. He urged her to leave and go to friends for help. He then held the horse's head above water, which he was able to do because the animal was checked up with a tight rein. He was clinging to a tree when help arrived and the horse and wagon were retrieved from the water. The editor of the paper added to the story: "Buoy out the line of the ferry, gentlemen, so you won't get into hot water."

The Whitehall Times
April 28, 1983

HORSE ESCAPADES 1883
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In 1883 there were runaways instead of automobile accidents. William Pardo's young spirited horse was standing with a cart by John Murray's coal yard on Canal Street, probably where Ryan's was later. A train approached and the horse took off up (Broadway) Canal as far as Cooke Street where he reversed and ran the other way down Canal which is now Main Street, Opposite Wilcox grocery store, called the Red Front, which I presume was above Saunders Street. The cart struck the wheel of Vannier's cart which it overturned and broke. There the horse went onto the sidewalk and passed Quigley liquor store at the corner of Division Street, tearing down "Charlie's" big sign post. At Pike's store the sign in front was split to pieces. At Travis stove store in the Arcade building a \$15 plow was smashed. O.A. Manville's drug and paint store next had

its pile of cans of paint scattered. At Wait's corner store at Broad and Canal ("Myers" corner) the horse left the walk and ran down Broad Street to Yule's Hotel at the south corner of Bellamy. He ran between the lamp post and the house and cut around the corner into Bellamy Street. The lamp was smashed but here the horse was stopped.

The horse had run on the sidewalk a full block but no one was injured, the pedestrians leaping out of the way. Nor was there much damage even though goods and sign posts were plentiful. One never knew what a runaway horse would do.

Other horse affairs occurred at this same time. The one attached to Renois and Son's bakery cart took fright from a thill dropping on its head and running down Canal and Broad streets collided with William Sinnott's delivery wagon. Both horses were severely cut and the wagons somewhat broken. Sinnott's was at one time on Broad Street.

Richard Woollett shod 112 horses in seven days. One of the biggest shoeing feats on record at the line barn, in seven consecutive days, with only one Sunday out.

A sign of spring as the passage through the streets of a lot of mules strung like dried apples on a rope. (Editor's note: Hee! Haw! Mr. Wilkins, it was)

Herbert Case used to tell that the mules were brought in from pasture on the surrounding farms in lots of fourteen tied together.

J.R. Broughton's horse, standing in front of the store, took fright at snow falling off the building and running towards home overturned the wagon. The carriage and harness were damaged.

The Whitehall Times

April 28, 1983

(Title Unknown) September 1882

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Race horses entered in the Whitehall Racing Park for a \$60 purse were Farmers Daughter, Annie Gilligan, Bald Hornet and Plow Boy.

Events in September 1882 included the 41st annual fair of Washington County at Sandy Hill (Hudson Falls), 5-9 September. People reached it by special trains running at 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. On Thursday 10,000 people attended. There were 1,000 'wheeled vehicles on the ground. Nutbrown," an Ethan Allen colt of Mac J. Brown and Frank Douglass won the 2, 3, 5 heats and won the race.

The Whitehall Times

August 12, 1982

(Title Unknown) July 1882

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

George Knight enclosed his half mile driving and trotting park on E.P. Wood's with a high board fence. Built last year, it was one of the best parks in New York State. His opening season, July 17, 18, 19, with a good season of races.

The Whitehall Times
March 19, 1982

(Title Unknown) 1881
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

What do the words Brahmas, Leghorn, Spanish, Plymouth Rocks, Cochins, Golden Polish, Javas, Bolton Greys mean to you? How many people in Whitehall now wake up to chanticleer's clarion or go out to the hen house for an egg to bake a cake for supper? This all leads to A Walk Through the Poultry Yards of Whitehall, listed by A. Francier in 1881."

Before the days of village ordinances forbidding hen houses and their occupants, many of the well known men of the village boasted of fine fowls.

H. A. Griswold, a jeweler whose shop was next door north of what is now Chase's, would drop his repair on watches any time to talk about his fine Brahmas. He imported his first about 1865.

Julius LaTour, a tinsmith and plumber of Saunders Street kept game fowls. His fancy was the black breasted red ones. He lived on LaTour Street.

Martin Feely kept game hens and Brahmas which he bred for weight and beauty.

T.S. McLachlin of the Rockery at the end of Rock Avenue bred white and black Leghorns, buff Cochins and black Spanish. In 1881 he sold eggs in his hardware store on Broad (North Main street) in the Dayton block for 50 cents a dozen. Once he sold a double yoked egg to a fellow merchant for six cents. The merchant would pay only five cents. The case for one cent: was taken to Judge Buel's conciliation court for settlement. This court sat in Buel's fishing tackle shop around a stove where those concerned sat on wooden boxes. This building was at the location of Stile's Meeting Place.

E.J. Baldwin, an insurance agent, had no particular breed but had a good business in the sale of hen products. He lived on Rock Avenue next to T.S. Mac Lachlin.

James H. Parke kept two kinds of hens, Plymouth Rocks and buff Cochins. Keeping hens is not all that easy, but after a bad spell he built up a good flock. His store was in the Parke building at the southeast corner of Clinton Avenue and Broad Street which would make it about west of the present Lock 12. A military hall was in the third story and the Capital Palace in the basement.

S.T. Boardman had buff Cochins which couldn't be ~ beat." His place had a good walk in which to keep fowls. He may have been a descendant of the Samuel of boatyard fame in 1810. My, file doesn't yield a Samuel of this date. _

L.H. Carrigan kept Brahmas. He could raise chickens better than he could ducks. _ Mr. Carrigan was a shoe, _ boot and hat merchant. He was in business with John C. Earl whom he bought out in 1892. His store was at the site of the Army and Navy store. He was a leader in veteran affairs.

James Conery, the express agent who lived on Church Street, raised Golden Polish and black Spanish. He thought he had the secret of making hens lay and wrote a book on the subject.

Stephen Osgood was a carpenter and builder who lived on Poultney Street. He had good large partridge Cochins and buff Cochins which he delighted to show to visitors.

A Jessie (Josh) Wark was just starting in the poultry business with Plymouth Rocks and Black Javas that he said were A No. 1. He felt confident that he would out rival the older breeders.

Henry Douglass sold Plymouth Rock eggs for hatching. He doubtless was a farmer on the Brick church area.

Alex McNeely kept Plymouth Rocks and Bolton Greys for laying quality. He was a tailor, a cleaner and colourer with a shop somewhere on Canal Street.

Orville Manville planned to reenter the fowl business, -~ and as he did all things, people knew he would have the best. When he was in business before, he had all the dealers here and made money.

The Whitehall Times December 26, 1974

(Title Unknown) December 1874 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The ice racing season opened Monday 2 Dec. The ice is in excellent condition. The Whitehall Trotting association has already caused several tracks to be scraped, straight as arrows, to enable contesting horses to prepare themselves for the coming contest.

The Whitehall Times December 26, 1974

Some Horses in Whitehall In 1874 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Interest in horses has increased lately in Whitehall as well, as in other parts of the country. An interesting TV program that has attracted many is called The American Horse and Horseman and appeals to the owners of Whitehall's quarter horse, standard breed Morgan and App but in Whitehall 100 years ago the Morgan breed held the leadership.

These horses seemed to be owned by Whitehall's business men. On the Bascom farm one mile south of the village was kept a famous horse Ethan Allen Jr., owned by S. B. Woodard. This horse and his line furnished many of the horses in this area.

His genealogy started with Justin Morgan, that tough versatile animal brought to Randolph, Vt., in 1795 from Springfield, Mass. an "unbroken two year old runt." From him in line was Sherman bred in Lyndon, Vt., and noted for his endurance and docility; Black Hawk. Sherman's greatest son born in Essex county; Ethan Allen born in 1849 in Ticonderoga to become the fastest trotter in the world and from whom every Morgan living today can be traced (his mother was owned by F. A. Leland, an itinerant peddler through Hague, Schroon Lake and Whitehall); and Ethan Allen Jr. whom W. H. Cook of Ticonderoga raised.

Mr. Bascom in 1874 was raising at least seven colts. All sired by Ethan Allen. Jr. Across the road was George H. Buel brother of Julio Buel of fishing tackle fame and noted in his own right as a good farmer. He was one of the sheep raisers of the town. He was keeping horses owned by W. F. Bascom, an Insurance man in the village and some of his own.

H. C. Hall in the Manville Scribner & Co. lumber business owned a driving horse of the Lambert line. He is noted in the directory as a "Horseman".

E. W. Hall owned a sorrel horse, a trotter "Mystery", a matched pair of family horses, and a tandem team of the Ethan Allen stock. He was a slate manufacturer, a drug store owner and owner of the Hall Mansion on West Mountain.

George A. Hall a hardware merchant owned a matched sorrel team with white faces and white legs of the Black Hawk stock.

The Honorable F. E. Davis, a dealer in all kinds of lumber, had a span of matched horses, very fast travelers.

A. Martin, a village trustee and dealer in lumber in the steam mill on the east side of the lake, owned a span of English draft horses.

N. Collins, a milkman and farmer, had a well matched roan team.

Joseph Arquette, who owned a meat market, drove a fast trotter while John Brett, a feed store proprietor, had two trotters of the Black Hawk line. Supervisor• George Brett and B. H. Baldwin drove trotters.

William Pardo, a barber, had a gelding of the Columbus stock. The farmers Francis Fish, Warren McFarren, Frank Douglass, George and Frank Bartholomew owned fine colts of the Ethan Allen stock.

Hannibal Allen, town clerk and owner of a hardware store, went to the Hambleton man blood which was an out breeding of the Morgan Line not now allowed. David Bartholomew of the Yule Hotel owned one of this line. George Griswold in the tin ware business and H. G. Burleigh of the transportation line had trotters of the Lambert stock.

Dr. Holcomb's horse was not listed as to line but he always had a good horse to be able to attend to the sick at a distance

Whitehall does not have any monuments to horses as does Crown Point. A 12 foot statue in the village square as erected to honor Pink, Col. John Hammond's horse .which was in 88 skirmishes and 34 battles of the Civil War. He descended from the Black Hawk line. Another statue is at Penfield Museum for Billy, wounded at Gettysburg and owned by Col. James A. Penfield. He was a grandson of Black Hawk.

An interesting item for horse lovers, or not, is that Ethan Allen was taken by his later owner to Rhode Island and from there to a western ranch where he made a contribution to the quarter horse breed. The American saddle horse is also indebted to the Morgan as is the Walking Horse.

Early newspaper items tell of the trotting races on the ice, road racing and ownership of fine horse flesh in Whitehall. Mr. Wilkins said 'Our town is famous for its handsome ladies, its fine looking, genial, gallant men and for its gallant stock particularly that noble animal, the horse.'

The Whitehall Times
Thursday July 7, 1988

Gleaning from Whitehall Chronicle in 1874
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In the mid and later 1800s there were horse and stock farms around the village of Whitehall. There were many valuable horses owned and a stock breeding business. Some horses were owned by the farmers; others were pastured for out of town owners. A visit was made to George H. Buel's farm (Austin) and the W.B. Woodward farm across the road. Mr. Buel owned George Barney, a bright blond with a black mane and tail of Morgan ancestry. His descendants were of the same color and grace of motion. Mr. Buel also owned Barney Henry, a black stallion of ancestry from Ethan Allen Jr. and Black Hawk. George Ingall's pet, an old grey gelding was stabled at the Buel farm. Across the road was W.B. Woodward's farm, known as the Bascom farm. This was a horse breeding farm. He stalled Ethan Allan Jr., Jack Frost, Francis E. Fish's two year old filly and Mish Collins' black colt. Mr. Woodward wintered horses from as far away as Troy, Saratoga, Brattleboro, and Albany. A common saying at this time was "All we need is a track to initiate the movement (racing).

In 1874 on Poultney Street there was a pair of grey mares owned by Mike Nichols, three year olds. These were of Banner stock, one of which showed great promise. Frank Douglas on the Gibson farm had a handsome bay team, four year olds.

One was a Hamiltonian colt. There was also a two year old Ethan Allen Jr. which showed promise.

Sheep: Sheep were at one time very important in Washington County and were on Whitehall farms. Perhaps this shows why they disappeared. In 1874 Jerry Brown and Robert Mytoll had flocks of sheep. One night dogs killed eighteen. They must have been large dogs and savage, for the sheep were torn and some had the hides almost torn off. The dogs had bitten at the head and torn the hide off. At the same time George S. Griswold at South Bay had three killed, one with an especially long fine wool. Jerry Brown had 200 acres of land valuable for sheep raising and Robert Mytoll 75-100 acres. They said they were getting rid of all their sheep and would not raise any more.

The Whitehall Times
March 7, 1974

(Title unknown) February 1874
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Horses were a topic. There were two runaways of horses with cutters but no damage was done. At the Elbow on the ice John Brett's "Billy Button" won three heats of four from H. C. Hall's "Sure Thing." The proprietor of H. C. Hall's hotel added to his livery stables four fine horses, two barouche sleighs, and a first class single turn outs.

The Whitehall Independent
July 25, 1984

A Sulky Racer 1850 - 1860
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

George Ingalls was a well known horse trainer and driver in races, who had many adventures on the turf. He was a capable trainer and driver and very honest and straightforward.

George had been a driver on the Southern Circuit and was associated with Hiram Woodruff, Sam McLaughlin and Dan Mao of the 50's and 60's. The first trotter he handled was Fanny Barney, a chestnut owned by his brother, John W. Ingalls. He trained her to 2:35, a very fast gait in those days. Then he trained Tib Woodward, also owned by John and trained her down to 2:30. She was sold in 1861. Then there was Sorrel Jim, sold to John Cutter of Albany in 1863.

George won a great race on the ice one winter with Jewels raised by Prentice Beckwith and owned by H.A. Griswold, both of Whitehall. Jewels was entered in the race to make the necessary number.

Surprisingly enough, she not being supposed to stand a chance, the mare won the first heat. Although the other owners of fine horses from cities tried to make George draw out from the race, he stubbornly refused and won the race. The owners lost a great deal of money to this "greenhorn driver."

The biggest race George won was with the horse Tom Moore, owned by George Wicker and Tom Bailey of Ticonderoga, another village with owners of horseflesh. The race was in Montreal.

Harry Bradley of Philadelphia was an unscrupulous driver. George let the other drivers wear out their horses in the first two heats while he kept Tom Moore in reserve. The third heat he won. In the fourth heat, Harry Bradley crowded George over and Tom Moore ran twice around the track with speed and power.

George was picked up for dead with a cut on his head. However, he revived and won the fourth and fifth heats, winning the race. He was taken from his sulky and carried on shoulders to his quarters. A gold purse was raised for him.

George raced for thirty winters on the ice in Whitehall or the Association's track at Hudson Falls, in Rutland and other places. Many horsemen were interested in having a notice written about him and furnished material for it, would that it had been written.

The Whitehall Times
March 17, 1988

N.Y. State Agricultural Society, Vol. 1848 & 1849
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

From the story of Tryphena Wright and the sheep she kept at night in a hollowed tree, it is known that Whitehall early settlers raised sheep. One learned article on sheep

declared that it was profitable to raise 100 animals on 100 acres. It would take twelve tons of hay to keep 100 or 3 percent of their weight per day. In 1845 -Washington County lead the state in the amount of wool produced. The number of sheep was 190,311 and the number per acre 64.

The Merino and Saxon strains of sheep were introduced into the county in the 1820's and the production rose. In Whitehall in 1825 there were 6125, ninth in the county; in 1825, there were 9966, eleventh in the county; in 1845 there were 13,791, ninth in the county.

There were enemies of sheep. In 1786 a wolf tax was levied. For proof of their destruction the collector had to see the head of the wolf and then he cut off the ears so that a bounty could not be collected again. Foxes were the next in killing, especially, young lambs. The third was dogs. At this time the practice of killing any dog that was molesting sheep was begun. The last great wolf hunt occurred in the Kingsbury in 1801. Foxes were prevalent in Putnam.

The Whitehall Times
October 30, 1980

(Title Unknown) November 1880
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Affection can be held for a favorite automobile but it cannot match that for, an animal which saw long service to man. George Brett's sorrel Tom died at the age of 15. He was a Hambletonian colt raised by Columbus. His fastest record time was 2:29 but he had done better at private recordings.

Owned by H.R. Wait, he was purchased by Mr. Brett in 1869 and became a, family horse. He was so docile a child could manage him, but he would not take the dust of any horse. At every funeral he drew the conveyance of the clergyman. His grave was on the west side of Wood creek on George Brett's farm (Austin's) and was lovingly lined with straw.

The Whitehall Times
October 5, 1978

From the first Town Record Book 1805
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In 1805 the town evidently had troubles with animals running loose. By-laws established that stallion colts, one year or older, should not run at large under penalty of \$2; that rams should not run at large under penalty of \$2; that hogs, pigs and sows should not run at large under penalty of 50 cents. If anyone should catch the animals that were running at large, they were authorized, if no one claimed them within six days, to put them in the pound.

Horses, sheep and geese should not be free commoners. If they did any damage, they could also be confined to the pound, whether the fence was lawful or unlawful.

Roaming animals were a problem and many laws had to do with them or fences to detain. At this same 4 April, 1783, meeting a description of a fence was given. All fences should be four feet six inches high made of good stuff and well laid. No hole from the earth three feet upward should be more than six inches and from that to the top should not exceed 12 inches. It would be deemed unlawful to impound any creature which was deemed a commoner unless the field in which such creature be enclosed with a fence of the above dimensions.

The Whitehall Times September 11 1975

Bears – Wolves – Panthers 1775 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

What a contrast in viewing wild animals in 200 years.

This past month a bear family has provided entertainment and some trepidation for a family with apple trees north of here. Of course the bears do not visit the trees in the open field but pass them for a tree within 40 yards of the living room window. The tree is now thoroughly bear-pruned of good and poor branches alike.

Did you ever see a mother bear lumbering (why is it always called lumbering when she can move so fast?) across a field with three cubs gamboling behind her? Have you ever seen cubs wrestling like kittens or an irate cub slapping his mother when she took an apple away from him? Have you watched cubs scamper up a tree to sit in a crotch and pull apples to them, or seemingly fall down the trunk as they descend backwards? Have you seen bears crop grass and then watched as they fled for cover at their mother's warning grunt?

There is the other side. One keeps a watchful eye in going to the garden and on the household pits. This is both day and night as the visits of the bears occur any time. Officials are reluctant to attempt capturing the animals to remove them to higher ground because of recent deer tragedies. One man said he'd shoot any bear he saw as they have wrecked his honey business for the year.

Disaster struck this bear family as one cub was killed on the Northway. They will doubtless meet death with the trigger happy sports who are waiting for the season to open — and it won't be for the excuse of killing for food.

Two hundred years ago the people of Skenesborough would not be enjoying the antics of bears or other wild animals. Their domestic animals had to be securely penned to be safe from the marauders coming out of the forests. A bear often seized a lamb and ran off with it.

Wolves were a menace. Mrs. Tryphena Wright of Northeast Skenesborough kept her eight sheep locked in a tree stump at night. But one night the wolves gained entrance, killed all eight and scattered parts of the bodies around the clearing and nearby woods. Not allowing anything to go to waste, Mrs. Wright gathered every shred of wool from the

ground and bushes and produced stockings for the family. She wouldn't have enjoyed the antics of the wolves if she had seen them.

Panthers also were a source of terror. If you've ever heard their screech, you know the feeling of having your hair stand on end. These animals were common in the woods around Skenesborough. Not man but the domestic animals were their prey, as witnessed by the ancestors of the late Wheaton Bosworth as they fled from the animal stalking their team.

Knowing the depredations of these wild animals, one can understand the last round-up of wolves in Kingsbury which sent the survivors to the hills of Dresden.

Bands and Bandstands

The Whitehall Times

January 30, 1986

Bits and Pieces in 1922

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

On 6 October the Italian Military Band held a band concert and dance in Rush Hall, the Iron Front. Mrs. Guy Walker and Louis L. Cameron rendered solos and duets. There was dancing from 10 p.m. till 2 a.m. with White's orchestra. Tickets were 75 cents a couple, 25 cents for an extra woman and 35 cents for the concert.

The Whitehall Independent

July 4, 1984

(Title Unknown)

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Whitehall Cornet Band, with A. C. Hopson leading it, was reorganized. New members were being added and new instruments secured, as old ones were worn out or had disappeared as they were private property.

The Whitehall Times
April 12, 1973

Ninth Separate Company Military Band 1891
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In December of 1891 another band, a brass one, was organized in Whitehall and called the Citizens Band. The conductor was Professor W.W. Howe of Whitehall Union School and the leader, N.L. McIntyre.

A month later the Citizens Band became known as the Ninth Separate Company Military Band. Its 17 young members enlisted in the National Guard and were subject to the rules governing the members of the Burleigh Corps.

The band purchased \$250 worth of new instruments and \$75 worth of new music. Its first public complimentary appearance was at a grand benefit concert 2 February 1892 in Armory Hall located in Anderson Hall. The members made a splendid appearance with their scarlet grenadier coats, navy blue pantaloons with black stripes, and shiny new instruments. Despite a blinding snow storm, 300 people turned out to hear nine pieces of popular music. Professor Howe had been presented with an ebony baton with silver trimmings which he wielded for the first time on this occasion.

The band declared its purpose not to be a mercenary organization but to entertain the public, when the weather permitted, with free open air concerts at regular intervals. But to help them in their heavy outlay they asked for a heavy patronage for a concert and ball 23 February. The concert was given in Music Hall and the ball in Armory Hall with 100 couples dancing until 3 a.m. A net profit of \$80 was realized.

In March this band gave a concert in Fair Haven's Knight's Hall to aid the Fair Haven band who had lost all their instruments and music in a fire.

So pleased were the citizens and businessmen of Whitehall with this band that a decision was made to provide them with a band stand. Several sites were considered; on the east side between the Times office and the Adams building (Eatery) on the east side of Wood creek nearly opposite the Chronicle building (at that time in the I.O.O.F. Hall. The final decision was between the foot bridge and Adams photography building in front of the Chronicle building,

The east bank of the creek was graded and terraced. The building was thus described: octagonal in structure, mounted on supports so the floor was nearly level with the street; from each corner raised turned pillars of wood supporting a low steeple roof surmounted by a wooden sphere. Neat railings extended around the base of the structure while under the eaves were attractive trimmings in scroll saw work. The stand was ceiled overhead, the lowest point in the ceiling being the center from which an arc light was suspended.

Israel L. Rush circulated the subscription paper and so popular was the project that \$120 was raised in one day. H. G. Burleigh was the largest subscriber with \$25.

The first concert of the season in the new band stand was given on a Friday evening in May. It rained heavily in the afternoon but the band assembled in the evening dressed in heavy overcoats. A crowd of 200 soon assembled. The following Monday a large group of 1500 people were grouped on the foot bridge, on Williams street, and on the

middle bridge. Thus began the summer open air concerts that the Ninth Separate Company Military Band had promised, in the new bandstand.

The Whitehall Times **October 2, 1980**

Ninth Separate Company Military Band 1891-92 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

In the winter of 1891-92 the Ninth Separate Company of Whitehall organized among its members a military band. The 20 pieces consisted of five cornets, two clarinets, three tenors, three altos, one saxophone, one baritone, one tuba, snare drum, bass drum and cymbals.

Professor W.W. Howe of the high school was the director and N.L. McIntyle the leader. Twenty-one members of the company composed this new organization whose instruments were from Charles Missenharter's.

About the same time an orchestra was formed under the leadership of Prof. L.E. Cantz of Saratoga and Minneapolis. Among the fine soloists were N.L. McIntyre clarinet; C.E. Pond, cornet, George Noyes, drums, xylophone and traps. The orchestra had 16 pieces: first violin, second violin, viola, violocello, bass, flute, first clarinet, second clarinet, first cornet, second cornet, two French horns, trombone, xylophone, drums and piano. The orchestra was connected with the military band of 20 pieces of Prof. Howe, director and N.L. McIntyre, leader.

On 23 February 1892 the Ninth Separate Company Military Band gave a concert in Music Hall (over the Butcher Block) followed by a dance at the armory (Anderson Hall.) The papers reported that the band had added much to its reputation and that people hoped arrangements could be made for a series of open air concerts during the summer months.

In answer to the many suggestions, a new band stand was erected through subscription on Williams street south of the footbridge on the east side of Wood creek. Although the band stand has been written about in this column, it can bear repeating, especially since its replica is planned for Whitehall through the action of a committee of the Urban Cultural Park System through a federal grant. Whitehall was chosen one of the 14 pilot projects in the state for such a statewide park system.

The construction of the band stand was watched with much interest and approval, and admiration, was heard on every hand. The east bank of the creek was graded and terraced and made attractive. The stand was octagonal in shape. It was mounted on supports so that the floor was nearly level with the street. From each corner rose turned pillars of wood supporting a low steeple roof surmounted by a wooden sphere. A neat railing extended around the base of the structure while under the eaves were attractive trimmings in scroll saw work. The stand was ceiled over head, the lowest point in the ceiling being in the center from which an arc light was later suspended by Mr. Mc Laughlin. The gold band on the top of the band stand was gilded by John Blinn. He furnished the material and did the work. At least two weeks would have to pass before the weather would be warm enough to permit an open air concert with comfort to performers and audience.

The first band concert given by the Ninth Military Band was held on 20 May, 1892. It was a successful one in all respects except the weather. That was too cold for comfort. The program for the first concert included these numbers:

March, Battle of Magenta, Marie; overture, Murmurings of the Forest, Beuillon; patrol, Guard Mount, Rollinson; concert waltzes, Danube Waves, Ivanouvinci; song and dance, My Darling, Laurendau; medley, Dudes of 1883, Myrellire; national air, Yankee Doodle Air, Rollinson.

The second band concert was given on 27 May. It was interfered with by weather. It rained during the afternoon and was damp and drizzly at 8 o'clock in the evening, but despite the dreary outlook the band gave its program as advertised. It was so cold and damp; however, they did not lose any unnecessary time. The program of the first concert was repeated with two additional numbers:

Schottische, Golden Hours; Rollinson; Medley, The Humors of Donnybrook, Prendeville.

On the following Monday the band was to appear in parade for Memorial Day but the stormy weather prevented. The third concert was a success but was accompanied with some discomfort by the youths' disorderliness, which will be described later.

The Whitehall Times

October 9, 1980

First Year of Concerts in the Bandstand 1892

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The second band concert was enjoyed by the audience which turned out in great numbers so great that North Williams street was crowded. Both bridges were filled and hundreds stood opposite the stand on Canal Street.

So many were next to the bandstand that their weight made the sidewalk sink considerably. The street commissioner, who repaired it the next day, said it was a wonder the walk did not go down under the pressure.

The only mar upon the evening was the conduct of the boys and young children who engaged in all sorts of sports instead of listening to the music. The noise was so great one time that Professor Howe had to stop the music.

The oft heard pleas came through the columns of the newspaper — the police ought to take particular pains to be on hand during the concerts, the parents ought to take this opportunity to teach their children courtesy and consideration for others.

The concerts continued to bring out large numbers who enjoyed the programs. Soloists added to the enjoyment of the occasions. A.A. Butterfield of Boston, who was in town on business, gave a piccolo number. M.L. McIntyre on the clarinet and George Noyes on the xylophone rendered solos frequently. John Clark was receiving many compliments on his cornet playing. Messrs. Pond and Skeels gave attractive features.

The Military band and orchestra drew talented people to the community to work and play. C.E. Pond of Addison, Vt., was a first class cornet player. He came to Whitehall to enter the business of steam laundryman in the Parke building, Clinton

Avenue. Herman Fitts of Saratoga was an excellent tuba player; he brought his family and opened a cigar making business.

Prof. Leon Chany from Minneapolis made his home in Whitehall. He was a fine piano tuner and accomplished musician. He gave instructions in the violin, piccolo, flute, guitar and banjo. M.L. McIntyre was a tonsorial artist and clarinetist. He settled into a renovated barber shop with a “very pretty barber pole” he began with three chairs and three men.

Besides the weekly concerts here, these musical organization members, or groups of members, played in other towns and gave benefits. One benefit helped the Fair Haven Fire Department after a disastrous fire. One was a complimentary concert to the teachers of the Institute and another for the library fund. They traveled to Mechanicville for the Knights’ Daughters, to Fort Edward on the opening of the new Hotel Hudson, to Glens Falls in the aid of a widow.

Many of the smaller groups of musicians were accompanied by outstanding vocal soloists. Such names as Mrs. R.C. Cook, Jessie Broughton, Franke Wilson, C.H. Broughton and H.E. Sullivan are listed.

During this period of Whitehall history, the latter part of the 1800’s, music “had charms” seemingly for young and old as participant and audience.

The Whitehall Times **July 22, 1982**

Bandstands in Whitehall 1892 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Bandstands have been in evidence in Whitehall for nearly 100 years. The first one was built in 1892 (history in a previous article) by public subscription. It stood on North Williams street south of the old footbridge abut opposite the present marine hardware shop of Walter Newell Jr. For the first few years weekly summer concerts held large audiences standing on the canal bridges.

The bandstand was built especially to accommodate the newly formed (December 1891) Ninth Separate Company Military Band which was the principal band in earlier years. It participated in social functions and parades in neighboring communities.

Many people recall the first bandstand that disappeared when the canal was moved eastward into Wood creek. The second bandstand stood in Riverside Park, erected on scaffolding that rose from the canal grass land to the east wall of the old canal. The date could be the 20’s to the 50’s. Memories of it are vague. Many recall there was a bandstand with a roof there and that as children they played on it. Before its appearance on special occasions in the park bands played on the deck of a boat anchored south of the middle bridge.

Early pictures of Riverside Park after this construction in 1914 through the efforts of village officials and the Civic League do not show a bandstand. Any pictures that might be copied or further recollections of its existence would be appreciated.

I’ve been told that this second bandstand was condemned in the 1950’s and the third stand, a simple square slab surrounded by white board fencing, was made. For many

years the Granville band, sponsored by the chamber of commerce played, on it the Fourth of July. This stand is being replaced by a replica of the stand of 1892, pictures of which are on display in the post office foyer.

This stand in progress is part of the project proposed by the Historical Society of Whitehall in 1979. It is a part of the early action portion of Whitehall's Urban Cultural Park proposal. Land and water conservation funds are available for park improvement only. Therefore Whitehall's grant proposal included picnic facilities and park benches for Skenesborough Museum Park and more park benches for Riverside Park. The fact that the stand is to be a replica of an 1892 bandstand to be in keeping with the Victorian buildings of the Main Street Historic district made it most desirable and caused the awarding of the grant.

Because the bandstand is the most visible part of the park improvement, the building of it had to come first, according to New York State Park and Recreation. Any federal grant is never more than 50 per cent matching which means that any amount of money awarded must be matched locally by cash or volunteer services. Proof of these expenditures must be made to the government before any government money can be received. Previous conjectures in The Whitehall Times are that the bandstand might cost between \$14,000 and \$20,000. Planned expenditures will be much lower. The Whitehall Urban Cultural Park Advisory committee has until December, 1983, to complete use of the grant money.

The Whitehall Times

April 5, 1973

The Juvenile Cornet Band 1887

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Whitehall, according to old programs and newspapers, has always had musical talent. Following a century-in-years tradition, Whitehall now has another band, that of the Whitehall School Alumni.

Back in December, 1887, on a Friday the Juvenile Cornet Band of Whitehall was organized by the Rev. J. S. Ethier, who was its director. The original group was composed of 16 boys but this number grew so rapidly that by its first anniversary there were 75 active members, ages 10-18 years. Others were taking lessons and would soon join them. The boys practiced three nights a week, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in the rectory of Notre Dame des Victoires on Wheeler Avenue. Father Ethier also gave private lessons for those who wanted to catch up. The boys practiced marches, chorals, quicksteps, waltzes, gallops, serenades, schottisches, gavottes, overtures, etc., besides the scales and exercises of Ripley, Collins and Samuels methods.

Father Ethier was the founder; conductor and patron of this Juvenile Cornet Band. At one time he himself owned 50 of the instruments. He copied by hand many of the pieces of music that each boy had mounted on cardboard in a book with his name imprinted. Father Ethier composed several of these pieces. He trained the boys in

military evolutions to use while marching in the streets, practicing them in Temperance Hall. During the first year the band filled 36 engagements in and out of town.

Father Ethier was an artist, specializing in crayon portrait drawing. He advertised in the local papers for patronage, \$15 for a framed product, the proceeds to be used for the benefit of the band. He had spent \$1500 himself on the band project, His stated philosophy was: "Music cultivates and elevates the minds of our young men, refines and moulds them into serious practical habits of gentlemanly life,"

At the close of the first year the temporary uniforms of the boys were worn out. There was only \$130 in the uniform fund. To furnish enough to outfit the whole band it was decided to have a fair and festival about Christmas time in Griswold Hall. The chosen uniform was to be the colorful one of the Zouave type -- short jacket, baggy blue or red trousers and tasseled cap or turban. An oil painting of one was displayed in the store windows preceding the fair and in the hall during it.

The fair and festival was held during Christmas Week in 1888, from Wednesday through Saturday of one week and repeated Thursday and Friday of the following one. Its attractions consisted of a concert every evening by the full band in which each boy was given an opportunity to show what he could do; an oyster supper; and a sale of articles donated by friends. One highlight each evening was an award by vote of some article given for that purpose. Some of these were gold pieces, lamps, silver and glass dishes, barrels of apples, crackers and flour. Evidently a gold watch was the cherished prize won by Louise Lortie who had only a few more votes than Maggie Nolan.

Patronage was excellent; the first Friday night was the biggest with 530 tickets being sold. The net profit was \$923.90. Immediately a uniform committee was appointed, the clothes being ordered from G. S. Simmons & Co. in Boston at \$15.50 each. They were worn for the first time when the band "turned out" on Washington's Birthday anniversary, 1889. By this time the boys were practicing in their spacious rooms in Anthony Renois' block.

During this year the Juvenile Cornet Band had been written up in papers of communities where they appeared like the Troy Catholic Weekly but more - notably in the national Harpers Weekly in an article entitled "The Military Band of the United States," by Leon Mead.

Another fund raising affair was a musical and dramatical entertainment given in Music Hall at Easter time, 1889. Two French Comedies that had never been presented before in this country were produced by the boys -- "The Departure for California" and "The Despair of Jacrisse." The full house provided a net of \$121.46 for the band. The evening ended with the Rev. Mr. McMiilan of the Episcopal leading three cheers and a tiger for Father Ethier and his band.

After Lent in 1890 the band gave a presentation of the French drama "Vildac" and a farce "The Two Blind Men" besides a repetition of 1889's comedies accompanied by music from the orchestra formed from members of the band appearing for the first time.

For several years after this newspaper accounts list the activities of the Juvenile Cornet Band as it appeared in concerts, sponsoring excursions on the lake, leading parades and entertaining a field.

Could it be that there is still in existence one of the photographs showing 78 members of the band and orchestra, including Rev. J. S. Ethier, the leader, and John Bellegarde, the drum major?

The Whitehall Times
July 24, 1986

100 Years Ago in Whitehall 1886
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In July Father Ethier's band cleared \$50 at an open air concert. This second concert of the summer finished enough money to pay for the erection of their bandstand and to buy some music. This was before the 1892 bandstand was erected on the east side of the canal and the church edifice was near the corner of Saunders Street and now Broadway.

The Whitehall Times
March 13, 1980

(Title Unknown) 1880
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The-Whitehall Cornet band was to occupy rooms in the Adam's block (the .Liberty Eatery building).

The Whitehall Times
Aug 13, 1987

Washington County Post March 18, 1871
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Reverend J. J. McDonald was elected president of St. Mary's Cornet Band with officers A.C. Hopson, A.M. Doherty, and J.L. Millett. These men were active with others in. St. Patrick's Total Abstinence & Benevolent Society.

The Whitehall Times
May 4, 1978

(Title Unknown)
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Whitehall Drum Corps was reorganized under the direction of Drum Major John H. Polley who was fully determined to have a creditable organization. The performers would be put through a course of instructions necessary to perfect them in their work of furnishing good music.

The organ grinder was expected soon with his choice selection of good tunes.

Bicentennials

Whitehall, County & State

The Whitehall Times
January 15, 1987

Whitehall Festival 87 Logo

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The pin containing Festival '87's logo is the Row Galley WASHINGTON that was part of the first United States fleet that played an active part in the Battle of Valcour. It is the fifth ship chosen by the Festival for its activities during Festival week in July in Whitehall, Schooner LIBERTY, Schooner ROYAL SAVAGE, Sloop ENTERPRIZE, and Gundelo PHILADELPHJA.

In 1776 while the fleet was building in Skenesborough Harbor, Benedict Arnold, in charge of providing the ships, designed the row galley to replace the gundelo then being built. The row galley was larger to carry more men; it was heavier to carry more armament; it was easier to handle. Four such row galleys were built in the harbor WASHINGTON, CONGRESS, TRUMBULL, GATES. They were rigged in Ticonderoga and sent down the lake to join the rest of the fleet. All but one took part in the battle. The GATES was not finished in time to reach Valcour Bay.

Since the British made a plan of this ship after its capture we know the dimensions: Hull, 80 feet; deck length, 72; keel length, 66; beam, 20; depth, 6; draft, 7; tonnage, BM 123. This design is in the national museum in Greenwich, England.

WASHINGTON was in the curved line of American ships stretched across Valcour Bay as the fleet met the British ships. That evening it followed the TRUMBULL as it led the American ships out of the Bay and fled toward Schuyler Island. The sails were badly ridden but after slight repairs ran guard, 13 October, at the rear of the fleeing ships that the British were fast overtaking. General David Waterbury asked permission to scuttle her but was refused. Shortly afterwards the enemy overtook her and her crew. They were later released and praised the kind treatment they received at the hands of the British.

The British repaired WASHINGTON and reached Crown Point with the British force. On 28 October 1776 with German General Riedesel aboard for St. John, she ran aground during a storm but was released by passing boats. There Riedesel left her for Three Rivers. She wintered at St. John.

The next year 1777 when General Burgoyne's huge fleet started south toward Albany many small boats accompanied his fleet. Among them was Row Galley WASHINGTON with Gundelo JERSEY and Cutter LEE, which had also been captured by the British in the retreat from Valcour. She arrived at Fort Ticonderoga with troops and since the small boats accompanied General Burgoyne to Skenesborough it can be assumed that WASHINGTON was with them and two weeks later was sent back to Canada with the soldiers and officers effects as there were no horses to carry them south.

Row Galley WASHINGTON served the British until 1784 when she was allowed to deteriorate or was broken up in Canada. The Gundelo JERSEY and Schooner LIBERTY suffered the same fate.

The Whitehall Independent January 11, 1984

Washington County Bicentennial Plans Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The formal ceremony for the observance of the Bicentennial Anniversary of Washington County will be held April 2 at the Washington County Office Building in Fort Edward. The projected plan prepared by the Washington County Task Force Committee includes many interesting activities.

A new colorful county emblem has been designed and executed to be placed on a county flag and on other appropriate items. The emblem depicts the resources of the county - farming, mining, manufacturing, and forestry. The flag raising ceremony will be accompanied by a color guard. Assemblyman Neil Kelleher will present a resolution from the State Resolution followed by County resolutions accepting the emblem and the flag.

The keynote speaker will be Supervisor Jon Stevens who holds a keen interest in county history. A native Washington County tree will be planted by arborist George Callaway.

After these ceremonies, each of the seventeen supervisors will unveil a framed colored photograph from his town to be hung in the Supervisors Chambers. These have been chosen and prepared by the Preservation Council of Washington County.

A reprint of the Historic Resources of Washington County will be available. The original was published several years ago and is still in demand. A new edition of the Washington County map has been prepared with a picture of the first county courthouse on the cover. The Washington County Historical Society has presented a calendar with pictures of each of the towns and historic dates throughout the months. The BOCES faculty is preparing a county float that will be available for county and surrounding area parades.

Philatelists will be able to obtain commemorative stamps and cancellations in the lobby of the County Building and the Fort Edward Post Office that day. A booklet containing mini histories of the county and the seventeen towns prepared by the town historians will be on sale.

The first formal celebration ceremony commemorating the County Bicentennial promises to be interesting on April 2. It will be followed on July 21 by a "birthday" party on the County Fairgrounds.

The Whitehall Independent
September 19, 1983

The 200th
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

200 has been a figure in the news for over eight years. It proclaimed observances and celebrations for each of the years of the American Revolution in hamlets, towns, and cities.

This war surged across the eastern part of our country, touching down in and affecting all of the thirteen colonies. A brief tracing of its path shows it raged from Lexington and Concord to Boston to Skenesborough to Ticonderoga and as far north as Valcour Island. It surged across western New York with the Sullivan raid. It see sawed around New York City environs and turned south as far as Savannah, Georgia. It finally ceased at Yorktown, Virginia.

Celebrations of the events of these eight years centered mainly in 1976, the 200th anniversary of our nation. A most recent reenactment was at Saratoga, which celebrated the end of the war and the signing of the Treaty of Paris, 3 September 1783.

Now will come the 200th celebration of the birth of Washington County on 2 March 1784. The area encompassing the present county has been under the names of Tryon, Albany and Charlotte, of which much more will be heard later.

The County Supervisors have brought into being a committee to plan a fitting acknowledgement of the occasion. It is composed of persons who will represent the historical, business, and financial interests of the communities -- a county and two town historians, two preservation council members, Washington County Historical Society, two chamber of commerce presidents, and a bank financial advisor. The county planner heads the committee under the supervision of Whitehall's Supervisor.

The organization meeting was held 6 September, 1983 and tentative plans for the observance were formulated.

It is hoped that each town and village will help in the celebration of this occasion.

The Whitehall Times
September 15, 1983

The 200th
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

There will be celebrations in 1984 in the 200th year of Washington County, in the 225th year of Whitehall, and in the 75th of Granville Pember Library and Museum.

Already, formal plans for the observance of Washington County are under way and others will soon follow.

Before the American Revolution, the whole of upper New York was known as Tryon. In 1763 five new counties were carved from the area, one of them being Albany, extending from the north line of Massachusetts and north of the Mohawk to the Canadian

line. On 2 March 1772 Charlotte County was set off from Albany. Each of these was named for a political person, the first two for men and the last for the wife of King George III. After the Revolution, on 6 September 1783, people were still anxious to “get rid of all things British” and so Charlotte County was renamed Washington County to honor the great general of the Revolution. It is supposed that this was the first county to be so-named. Finer detail of action will be reported as programs progress.

A committee for the county observance has been appointed by the County Board of Supervisors. It is led by the county planner under the supervision of the Whitehall Supervisor appointed head of the county committee. A core committee includes the county historian, two town historians representing the northern and southern blocks of

towns, a financial advisor, two presidents of the chambers of commerce, two representatives from the county preservation committee, and the president of the Washington County Historical society.

It is hoped that assistance will be provided voluntarily by many organizations and individuals.

The Whitehall Times **January 20, 1977**

New York State Anniversary **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Two important events occurred in New York during 1777. One was the organization of an independent state and the other was the invasion of the British troops from Canada under Lieutenant General Sir John Burgoyne.

The 200th anniversary of New York statehood will be observed statewide in this bicentennial year of 1977.

After the Declaration of Independence was endorsed, New York's Fourth Provincial Congress declared its independence 9 July 1776. The representatives of Charlotte County in this congress were John Williams, William Duer and Alexander Webster. This congress changed its name to the Convention of Representatives of the State of New York. In Kingston, the capital at that time, it established a committee to recommend a form of government. Those on the committee were an illustrious group of New Yorkers: John Jay, John Sloss Hobart, William Smith, William Duer (Charlotte county), Gouverneur Morris, Robert R. Livingston, John Broom, John Morris Scott, Abraham Yates, Henry Wisner, Samuel Townsend, Charles DeWitt, Robert Yates and later, James Duane.

Little is known of the work of this committee but on 12 March 1777 it presented a proposed state constitution to the Congress. For month the members considered this report and on 20 April 1777 accepted it without some important provisions that Mr. Jay, forced to be absent, had intended to include. One was the abolition of slavery. The constitution was published and read to the Congress and later to the people by Robert Benson.

Modeled on the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution provided for a legislature composed of a senate and an assembly. Senators were to be members of four sectional districts elected for four years; assemblymen, based on the population of the counties, were to be chosen for one year. The chief executive was elected for three years with his power limited to get away from the resemblance to a Royal Governor. Voting was limited to property owners.

The first governor was George Clinton elected in June 1777 who held the office for 18 years.

Elishama Tozer was the first assemblyman to be chosen from Skenesborough. He held the office for the year 1778-1779 and was elected to the senate in 1780. Thus he was Skenesborough's first assemblyman and first senator.

The Tozer family was an early one in Skenesborough. Elishama was a close friend of Philip Skene but became a rebel at the time of the Revolution and was a captain in the Charlotte county militia.

The Tozer farm was on the west side of Wood Creek and extended approximately between Saunders Street and Gilmore Street. The map of 1830 shows a strip of land marked Widow Tozer between the creek and the first canal. Elishama had a brother

Thomas. Baruch Tozer held early town offices.

The Whitehall Times

June 23, 1977

(No Title)

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A Bicentennial project of the Town Historian is a picture essay of the Town of Whitehall. Entitled "Day Before Yesterday" it will soon be off the press of the Whitehall Times.

The purpose of the book, besides celebrating the Bicentennial, is to present in permanent form the perishable scenes of our town. It is hoped it will bring to light many other pictures, postcards, snap shots, and fliers that may be copied for preservation.

The book contains over three hundred pictures of scenes and events of Whitehall. Pictures of people included are to represent some industry or organization. The histories of the town's transportation systems, the industries, the schools, are captioned for identifications and location.

This project is sponsored by Supervisor Horace Scott and the Town Board. Pictures, loaned, were copied by G & M Photos. Editorial advice was given by the editor of the Whitehall Times Benjamin Carpenter. The president of the Historical Society of Whitehall Carol Greenough assisted in planning.

The pictures come largely from the files of the Historical Society, Skenesborough Museum, and the Town Historian. These have been given over the years by individuals for preservation. Many others have loaned materials to be copied for the book.

Five hundred copies are being printed for sale. Requests may be made to the Whitehall Times or the Town Historian.

The Whitehall Times
October 7, 1976

VALCOUR
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The reenactment of the Battle of Valcour will take place this weekend. Among the activities will be a symposium on Benedict Arnold, the battle with a British frigate included in the line-up, and a banquet. Valcour was the scene of action for 12 of the first naval ships built in Skenesborough.

One of the practices of museums is the exchange of items for cultural and practical information in special exhibits. Skenesborough's part in the observance of the Battle of Valcour is such a loan of naval artifacts and art work to the Historical Society of Plattsburgh. This exhibit after the weekend will be on display in the rooms in City Hall from 2 to 4 p.m. each Thursday, Friday and Saturday until Oct. 31.

The fact that all the first navy's ships were not destroyed or captured in 1776 is not well known. Many articles and orators still make the statement that the whole fleet was destroyed.

Part of Skenesborough's celebration in 1977 (Bicentennial observance is not over) will be the reenactment of the battle in Skenesborough Harbor July 6, 1777.~ This was where the last five ships of the first navy were, destroyed or captured by Burgoyne's navy when he followed them from Ticonderoga. Schooner Liberty and row galley Trumbull were captured while schooner Revenge, row galley Gates and sloop Enterprise were burned and sunk in the harbor.

When Lock 12 was constructed, at the time the canal was set over into Wood creek, the excavation turned up these remains. Two cannon on one, authorities think row galley Gates, were stored for a time in the Masonic Temple. Later, they were presented to the armory where they now rest on the lawn.

Boards from these ships were still usable. Many were taken to a carpenter who made them into billiard cues and checker boards, and probably other items. Many of them have been erroneously labeled as having come from Liberty.

The gift to the armory was made about 1928. The late Arthur Miller of Saunders Street constructed the frames for the cannon. Mr. Miller was a carpenter in the silk mill. Various examples of his work are in existence, including the frame for the church cross in Castleton. Mr. Miller was also a bee keeper and, extractor of honey; a business which he was still conducting at the time of his death at 93 years. He lived with his daughter Beatrice Miller, a 39 year retiree from The Bank. The bee business is still in existence in the country near Sciota under the management of Kenneth Miller a retired contractor from Hartford, Con. who has returned to Whitehall to live.

The Whitehall Times
July 15, 1976

Bicentennial Days
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

An eventful week, July 10, 1976:

Not quite as thrilling when it arrived July 6 with flags flying and bells ringing, the experience of seeing the New York State Bicentennial Barge leave on its journey to Plattsburgh was still exciting.

By 5a.m. July 8, the barge was at Lock 12, battened down, waiting for its escorts, Governor Cleveland and Governor Roosevelt, and a small houseboat to be locked through. Then, accompanied by the tug Waterford, the barge itself almost completely filled the lock, with just a short space between the deck and the bridge above.

After leaving the lock, the 250-foot barge was picked up by the two tugs and went down the channel. Its blue, orange and red colors soon became blurred as it rounded the curve and went into Lake Champlain. It will be seen here again as it passes on its way to Fort Edward for a stay July 17-18.

The colonial history of New York State was delightfully told in panels, pictures and objects. Colonial Skenesborough was mentioned as an important colony north of Albany. One of the many grants of Skene's lands was singled out because he received it for war service, as did the neighboring grantees. His saw mill and blockhouse were copied from the Anburg picture. This section of the barge journey took it through the early Revolutionary War arena.

The visit of the barge coincided with the chamber commerce's annual Old Home Week. Added to it were Celebration '76 activities and those of the firemen companies. Volunteers for these activities have been many. Untold man-hours of time and labor were spent to provide a week of worthwhile entertainment and fun. It's great to see a successful event but, unless one is a part of the preparation process, he does not realize the planning, the times of anxiety, the money necessary to provide even the barest necessities for such a program.

The organizations that provided this event have no great source of income. What there is has been used for the benefit of the town and village — and the demands- are many, even from those who are not members. Workers are needed. It is hoped that "volunteers" would volunteer, not wait to be searched out and asked. Whitehall and its affairs belong to its inhabitants and friends who should make it a good place to live, and not just "let the other fellow do it."

The Whitehall Times
July 1, 1976

Skenesborough Scraps
By Jay Arr (Editor of The Whitehall Times)

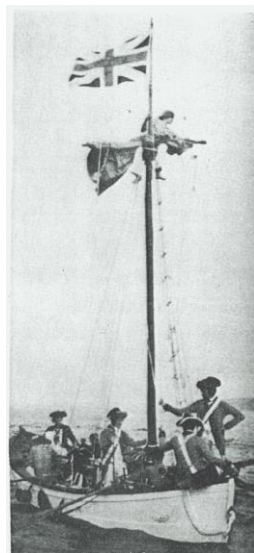
THIS ISSUE...of **The Times** is the largest ever published. We had a 26 page edition at the time of our town's bicentennial in 1959 but a series of events this week has helped us eclipse the edition published 17 years ago. We really feel that to publish 32 pages at this time is nothing short of miraculous, because we didn't start putting it together until last Wednesday .

We handed most of the photos over to our camera room operator, Ed Touchette, at that time and started feeding copy to our compositor, Clarence Benway, on the same day.

The type which makes up these pages is a product of a photographic process so we hesitate to set it too far in advance. . because the letters will fade . . . To further complicate matters, advertising was still arriving in our shop as late as Tuesday night . . . As these words are written, that evening, we are hopeful that we will be able to get it all together and on its way to our printers in Mechanicville by Wednesday noon.

The Whitehall Times
July 1, 1976

(No Title)
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



The boat shown here under British colors will be flying the colors of the United States following its rechristening as the "Philadelphia" at ceremonies at the

Skenesborough Museum grounds launching site on the afternoon of the Fourth of July. The ceremony will take place following the religious service in which the ecumenical churches of Whitehall will participate.

This 28-foot boat is a converted lifeboat, outfitted for sailing and also fitted for rowing. There are eight oarsman stations. A crew of ten seamen and officers will be the normal complement. The craft will be armed with cannon and various other arms.

A second boat which will be christened the "New York" will be put in service, at a later date, coinciding with the completion date anniversary of the last of Arnold's fleet built in 1776 Skenesborough.

The future "New York" of slightly different construction, it will be on the Skenesborough grounds during next week's festival and for some time thereafter to be repaired and outfitted in preparation for its joining the "Philadelphia" as a second ship the Skenesborough Navy.

The Celebration '76 Bicentennial commission has purchased the boats, which now will become property of the Skenesborough Museum and will be used to acquaint youth with the naval heritage of Skenesborough (Whitehall).

Volunteers of all ages are invited to become members of the 'Skenesborough Navy' and to participate in reenactments and sailing exercises.

An invitation has already been received for Sept. 17, 1977, a year in advance for the boats to take part in the battle of Diamond Island near Lake George.

During the summer of 1977, the boats will be active in the Burgoyne Invasion and will be involved in the battle of Skenesborough harbor.

Individuals and organizations wishing to assist financially the support of this new venture in the teaching of Skenesborough's history should contact either the Bicentennial commission or the Skenesborough Museum.

The Whitehall Times

July 1, 1976

2nd Bicentennial and Dedication Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

How can a community have two bicentennials within 17 years? Easy, if that community is Skenesborough. And how can a museum have two dedications within that period? Again, easy if it is Skenesborough Museum.

Skenesborough Museum was created 17 years ago during the town's bicentennial year, for it was founded in 1959. This celebration coincided with the 350th anniversary of the discovery of Lake Champlain and the Hudson River. This year, 1976, the birthday of the nation, a wing was added to the museum and dedicated to the memory of Judge John J. O'Brien who among other community services helped in alerting the legislature to the fact that Whitehall is the Birthplace of the United States Navy.

Whitehall's participation in the 1959 event was initiated in three organizations, the Historical Society of Whitehall, the town board, and the chamber of commerce. Attending the first state meeting in Albany as representatives were the late Supervisor

Jerome Campbell, chamber of commerce member the late Alfred Washburn, Marion Guerin and Doris Morton of the Historical society.

From reports of these delegates, whose organizations had been talking for several years about the 200th birthday. The celebration idea caught fire and grew into a great community project. The chamber of commerce appointed Francis Layden chairman of the event; Governor Averill E. Harriman appointed James Roche Washington county chairman. The late Miss Eva Johnson became secretary, and Mrs. Thyrza Kinner, treasurer.

The Canal Terminal building, a reinforced concrete structure built in 1917, had been slated for demolition by the State of New York. Letters from Whitehall's organizations urging permission to use it as museum were recognized. It was dedicated 28 June 1959, with Miss Catharine Potter, daughter of Rear Admiral William Potter, cutting the ribbon. The following year 1960 through the efforts of the town board and the late Judge O'Brien the town received permission to use the building as long as it was used as a museum.

Following discontinuance of the building in 1932 as a canal building, it had been used as a town shed for many years. Under the leadership of Russell Terry a great corps of men and women dug tar from the floor, cleaned the walls and painted the exterior. A contest was held for a name and 29 names out of the 40 entered produced the name Skenesborough Museum.

The chairman of the Museum committee requested exhibits from organizations to fill the long building. Displays were arranged by the Grange, Sportsman's club, Whitehall Volunteer Fire Company, the American Legion, the seventh and eighth grade art and industrial classes, the Historical society and the D&H Railway Company. Rearranged and augmented, these are still a part of the museum.

In 1958 the New York State (Legislature enacted a proclamation that Whitehall is the Birthplace of the United States Navy, a copy of which hangs in the museum. For a navy display the late Edward G. Farmer, U.S. Navy Retired, from Orwell, Vt., affectionately known as "Captain", produced a detailed model of the Skenesborough harbor and shipyard of 1776, with models of the ships built in it. As a "labor of love", Captain Farmer constructed this model in a period covering Jan. 4 to a June 29, 1959. It is still the main attraction of the museum, now in the Navy room of the Judge John J. O'Brien Memorial Wing.

Over its 17 years of existence Skenesborough Museum has grown slowly but steadily in acquisitions from its friends. Finances, in a low key, have been derived from the annual letter to Friends of the Museum and the community calendar. The small admission fee maintains the services. Visitors, world wide, increase in numbers each season and are enthusiastic in their praise of what they term a "unique" museum.

Over the years "curators" have been loyal in their labor and interest. Longest in terms of years has been Mrs. Catherine Senecal. Floyd a Coleman was a dedicated member for many years, with his knowledge of local history, his interest in detail, and the care of the physical structure. Others for shorter terms have been James Keenan, Claribel Snody, Margery Coppins, Elaine Senecal and Linda Beckwith. The present "curators" are George Greenough and Frank Brown.

The original museum committee of five members has served since 1959: Chairman Doris Morton, Vice Chairman James Roche, Treasurer Thyrza Kinner, Attorney E.

Francis Layden and Marion Guerin. Over the years were added Floyd Coleman, George Greenough, Carol Greenough and Frank Brown. With a change structure and method the total membership has been increased to 11 with, Evelyn Benjamin, Robert Kana and Horace Scott, Jr.

Several years ago a suggested plan for an addition was drawn up by George Greenough. This became reality, through the town board and the Judge John J O'Brien Memorial committee. Whitehall has obtained its Horizon part of the National slogan Heritage Festival and Horizon." The addition parallels the acquisition of the museum 17 years ago. Skenesborough Museum is not just another museum. It is one that is worthy of Whitehall's history and one that receives the admiration of the visiting public.

The Whitehall Times

July 1, 1976

Window Displays

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Bicentennial displays of the organizations are beginning to fill the store windows for the Old Home Week observance.

In Sach's Jewelry store the Rural Charity Club's aims — Faith, Hope, Charity — are explained delightfully in words and serio-comic models.

In Aiken's restaurant the Senior Citizens have placed articles that suggest a century ago in the home — women's dress with apron holding a water pitcher and candle stick, a child's traveling trunk, Dresden plate sofa and locket, stand with doilies cushion, braided rug, and bouquet of dried flowers.

Broadway Market window contains Mettowee Valley Business and Professional _ Women's Club objectives for women with streamers that lead from an enlarged picture of its emblem.

In TexGas window are the implements that recall a small home industry of candy making of Mattie and Bella Henry. The peanut roaster, the cart used in drawing the candy bags, the scales, marble and hook that pulled the taffy are displayed.

In Jumbo's IGA Market is the exhibit of the Elementary School Art Club. It is a mural - with a center eagle spread 1776-1976, with 16 individual posters surrounding it, expressing each child's bicentennial conception.

The Whitehall Times

July 1, 1976

Museum Opens for 18th Season

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Skenesborough Museum is now officially open for its 18th season. The theme

“Whitehall — Navy, Lake, Canal, and Railroad” suggests the type of exhibits displayed.

The Navy Room in the new Judge John J. O’Brien Memorial wing contains the Edward G. Farmer model of the 1776 Skenesborough Harbor and the Vergennes Shipyard of the War of 1812. Pictures and artifacts give further details.

The large room in its exhibits places emphasis on canal, lake and railroad history. Other exhibits tell of Whitehall history in fire department and farm and home implements. The names of the other rooms are the War Room, the Doll Room, the Admiral Potter Room, and the Skene’s Room gives a hint of their exhibits.

Rearrangement of the exhibits following the Horizon addition to the museum will continue. The assistance of many volunteers has made the opening possible at this time.

The Whitehall Times **August 21, 1975**

Washington County Agricultural Fair **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Many are now wending their way this week to Greenwich to attend the oldest chartered agricultural county fair in the Northeast. It also has the distinction of having the largest agricultural machinery display in New York State, second only to that of the New York State Fair.

One booth will be identified by its sign: Washington County Bicentennial 1975-1980. In it will be stressed arts and crafts of the County’s communities. Whitehall’s contribution this year is the Senior Citizens’ historical quilt with 48 blocks containing appliquéd and embroidered pictures and signs of Whitehall. Whitehall has long had displays at the county fair, especially those of the two Granges and the 4-H in the Grange Hall.

What about the very early years of this oldest chartered fair? Like many Organizations it had its forerunner. In December, 1818, a group of interested citizens met at the Sandy Hill (Hudson Falls) Court House with the Hon. Asa Fitch, father of the historian, in the chair. They decided to form a constitution for an agricultural society and made a plan for its constitution. The first item of business was a plan to protect its members from horse thieves. Two months later, February, 1819, at the home of Joseph Rouse in Argyle, 40 members signed the constitution. Melanction Wheeler was the signer for Whitehall.

Wake up” meetings were held in various towns for the ‘Farmers’ Holiday” as they were called; really friendly gatherings for one day. In September, Whitehall Wiswell’s Tavern hosted this town’s fair.

During the following years special events were held. In 1822 there was a plowing match with the plowers in white frocks and spears of wheat in their hats. In 1825 in Union Village (Greenwich) five dollars was awarded to the female who shall appear in full dress, as far as practicable, of her own domestic manufacture.”

In 1826 in Argyle first place was given to one who could plow 1/8 of an acre in the best manner, turning a furrow four to five inches wide and nine to eleven inches deep in

less than 45 minutes with horses or 60 minutes with oxen. One year a prize was given to a lady equestrienne but it was discontinued because more attention was paid to that than to the animals and produce.

On 4 August 1842 the Washington County Agricultural society was organized. This year it was held in Greenwich and for the first time the interest the ladies participated in the events of the day was noted in 1843. In 1844 at Greenwich a subsoil plow was exhibited.

The fairs were now rotated from town to town, the choice being the town that would donate the most money. In 1848 the 8th annual Fair and Cattle Show was held in Argyle. The report of the New York State Agricultural society for 1849 stated that the annual meeting of the society was held at Phoenix Hotel in Whitehall with John H. Boyd president. Unfortunately the report of the county fair was not given, though awards were made to Isaac Wood for 373/4 bushels per acre of wheat, to Nathan Jackson for corn, 92 bushels, and to Andrew Wilson for corn, 91 bushels, all of Whitehall.

In 1860 there was a three day fair because of the Civil War. The fair was omitted in the next two years. In 1863 Salem promised to furnish ground and buildings if the fair would be held there regularly for eight years. In 1865 the fair continued for four days and Horace Greeley was the speaker. A main feature at all the early fairs was an oration. This year prizes were offered for the fastest trotting horses.

In 1971 an agreement was made for the next ten years for the fair to be held on ground between Sandy Hill and Fort Edward with the society receiving the benefit of 25 acres of ground, the buildings, and \$2500 bonus.

Thus were the seeds of the present Washington County Agricultural Fair sown.

The Whitehall Times **May 15, 1975**

(No Title)

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Whitehall has been a railroad town since 1848 when the Saratoga and Whitehall line reached here from the south, and "railroaders" as the people in that occupation have been known are an important, community-minded group of citizens.

Delaware and Hudson Railway's contribution to the Capture Days:

The D&H Railway Spirit of Freedom engine and a 1916 baggage car proved an extremely popular display during Whitehall's Capture Days, May 9 and 10.

The 1776 engine (Spirit of Freedom); painted red, white and blue, was detoured from its occasional duty tours and was open for inspection at the old freight depot. Not only youngsters thrilled at being allowed in the cab of the train engine but adults had a long standing desire to see the inside of an engine satisfied.

The baggage car, newly painted, had railway displays prepared by Special Services Chairperson Ellen Freeman of the D&H and her assistant, Lewis Wasserman. The exhibits contained a history of the company and many artifacts of railroad life — lanterns, keys, plaques, pictures.

Railroad retirees of Whitehall acted as hosts throughout the two days, being on hand to converse with the visitors, to explain the apparatus in the engine, and to set up and dismantle the exhibits from Skenesborough Museum. These men were Timothy Carroll, Adelbert Herron, Joseph Manell, Peter Sparano, Ralph Sparano and Charles Tinsley. Lurvey Rooker loaned two oil cans and a lantern for the display.

Through the interest generated by the D&H exhibit, additional gifts were made to the Skenesborough Museum. Mrs. Charles Tinsley gave a nickel plated oil can individually owned by her father Alexander Pratt. His name is engraved on the can. Among some other items given anonymously were railroad hats, service pins, buttons and keys.

This railway display was initiated by D&H Vice President James Colpoys, a former Whitehall.

The Whitehall Times May 1, 1975

The D&H in Capture Days Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Vice President James Colpoys and Supervisor of Special Services Ellyn Freeman have arranged to have the D&H Spirit of Freedom, Engine 1776, and a baggage car on display in the railway yard during Capture Days May 9 and 10.

Personnel of the D&H active and retired are assisting in collecting railroad articles and pictures for the display and will act as hosts during the two days.

Many items will be needed for displays in the baggage car. Although Mrs. Freeman~ will furnish some displays and items from Skenesborough Museum will be used; it will be appreciated if anyone having railway items will loan them for the occasion.

The Bicentennial window in Aiken's restaurant has a D&H display calling attention to the need for loans. A call to 499-0936 will insure the pick-up of any articles.

The Whitehall Times January 2, 1975

Whitehall's Bicentennial Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

This year 1975 will see the start of the observance of Whitehall's part in this Republic's national observance of its Bicentennial. This is the opportunity for Whitehall's heritage to be written loud and clear, to be let out of obscurity caused by emotionalism over one man's later treason, lack of thorough research, dominance of nearby community events, and just plain lack of knowledge of our community's history. Whitehallers are really proud of their community, although their words sometimes seem to belie the fact. Now is the time to spread the word of Revolutionary action, men, and

national significance of the events that happened in Whitehall, the Champlain Valley, New York State and the nation. Let us show our pride in our heritage.

The Whitehall Times
January 10, 1974

(No Title)
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Anniversary bells today for Mr. and Mrs. George Hyatt.

Whitehall is now a National Bicentennial Community. With the official flag and certificate presentation to come, the community will be farther along with the plans that have been formulated to make Celebration '76 a success with the assistance of all Whitehallers.

In 1959 Whitehall celebrated its Bicentennial in association with New York State's observance of the 350th anniversary of the Lake Champlain - Hudson River Valley. This time the celebration of its part in history will be in association with the national bicentennial.

Our cause for celebration is manifold. Although it has been repeated often in this column, reiteration can put emphasis on the part Whitehall played in history as Skenesborough. Celebrations over the United States will take in events of the whole Revolutionary period; Boston has already had the Tea Party reenactment. Whitehall's main action in the war was during 1775 to 1777 and so the celebration can cover 1975 to 1977.

The first event took place 9 May 1775 when Skenesborough was captured by two forces sent to obtain the schooner and other boats known to be in the place by Captain Herrick from Castleton and Captain Barnes from Salem. At that time the schooner was taken and became the first ship of the Colonial and the Federal Navy. This action was the first war activity in New York State.

The second series of events came in 1776 when Skenesborough became the shipyard of Benedict Arnold when he constructed the first fleet of the United States that succeeded later in obstructing British action. This resulted in saving George Washington's army and so; gave us the United States.

The third event was the - battle in Skenesborough Harbor 6 July 1777 when the last of the fleet was captured or sunk by British forces. This event called Burgoyne to Skenesborough where he made his headquarters for three weeks. This delay, while he waited for a road south to be cleared, again allowed the Americans time to recoup their forces and led to the British defeat at Saratoga.

These events are a part of Whitehall's heritage — heritage which all citizens— former, present or future — can well be proud of and should be able to relate.

The Whitehall Times
October 7, 1971

(No Title)

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The historical heritage of a town and a village is not, nor should it be, in the hands of one person or single group of people. Pride in one's native folklore and historical fact is an inherent characteristic. To strengthen this characteristic state governments have made a local history unit obligatory in the school curriculum. Early enough to develop youthful interest in one's community and late enough to insure an understanding of local events in relation to national and world history.

Whitehall has such a rich heritage -- a French and Indian fort, the events of the wars of the Revolution and 1812, lake boat days, canal era, railroad period, industrial rises and declines, a melting pot of nationalities with their rich backgrounds. People themselves are a part of our heritage. There have been sailors and soldiers, senators, representatives, judges, and countless others who have gone out from Whitehall to "make good" In the outside world - - and of these so many whose pride In Whitehall has called them back in retirement or visitation.

With the coming national bicentennial it is natural to stress Whitehall as the Birthplace of the United States Navy. The Town and Village Planning Boards included this part of Whitehall's history in its plans for the restoration of the 1775- 1776 shipyard. Too big an undertaking? No. Remember the 1959 celebration - - that successful event made possible by the cooperation of the whole citizenry? It can be done again and on a larger scale. The slide program "Whitehall -- Birthplace of the United States Navy," offered to organizations last year, has even produced a bank account of \$25 in the name of Whitehall's Bicentennial; small, yes, but it can grow.

You have read the Planning Boards' letter sent out to organizations asking for an expression of interest in these bicentennial plans. Whether Whitehall will have the services of the State Office of Planning Coordination for a pioneer project of feasibility will depend on the attitude of Whitehall's citizens. Here is an opportunity for individuals to show concern for, an important development in Whitehall's future

-- for her historical and tourist attractions will have much to do with her development. Put your support in writing and later into action for our country's bicentennial and Whitehall's benefit.

Books & Whitehall Area

Transcript of a letter to Mrs. Morton from L. R. Lewis, Attorney at Law, Hudson Falls, N. Y. – November 8, 1961

Dear Mrs. Morton:

I am much interested in Henry B. Northup, a lawyer of Sandy Hill who represented Joseph S. Brown, negro preacher and missionary to Liberia, in his action against Brown's "presiding elder" in Liberia, for what we would now call libel, slander, and/or defamation of character. Brown could get no redress under church law because they would not listen to a black man, and Henry B. Northup, who himself was a Methodist on the Building Committee of the church building operation in 1841 and later a Trustee of the church, went to bat for Brown in our civil courts, and so effectively that the elder admitted the inaccuracy of his story and paid \$150.00 damages. This ended in 1848. Late in 1852 Henry B. Northup got a commission from the then Governor Hunt of New York State, and went into Louisiana to retrieve a free negro by the name of Solomon Northup who had been kidnapped and sold into, slavery in 1841. This latter book was edited by one David Wilson.

Wilson wrote the story of the life of Jane McCrea which was published in 1853. I think he had to do with "Brown's Journal" which is the story of the Negro preacher's experiences leading up to his efforts in Liberia and concluding with the conclusion of the civil action. Wilson, according to Stone's History of Washington County, was from Sandy Hill, was a lawyer who went to Whitehall, and, as you know, he wrote the piece of fiction serially later published by Inglee and Tefft, I believe in about 1900.

I should like to know what I can about Wilson bearing on his credibility, particularly as to the Jane McCrea story, his possible connection with Henry B. Northup (I think perhaps he studied in the latter's office), and his relationship to the Brown story, particularly to "Brown's Journal".

If you are familiar with the Solomon Northup book which is told in the first person but edited by Wilson, I think you will know that in some areas it was taken less than seriously. I have recently had an interesting experience in undertaking to check on this. The book refers to Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin". I got the "Key" from the State Library. This refers to the criminal trial in Washington, D. C. instituted by Henry B. Northup on his and Solomon's return from Louisiana on the 18th of January, 1853, in an effort to procure the conviction of the kidnaper. They were unsuccessful in this effort because the kidnaper perjured himself and procured perjured testimony as to Solomon's identity and Solomon, although indisputably a free citizen of New York was not permitted to testify because he was a Negro. From the State Library I later obtained access to this issue of the Times and to that of the 20th of January which gave three columns of the first page to this kidnapping case. This, of course, was as of a

time before David Wilson had access to the story, and I think pretty well verifies the Solomon Northup book.

I wrote to Mrs. Lonergan. She tried to help me, but suggested that you might be able to give more help.

I shall be very grateful for any assistance you can give.

Sincerely,

**Transcript of a letter to Mrs. Morton from L. R. Lewis, Attorney at
Law, Hudson Falls, N. Y. – March 29, 1962**

Dear Mrs. Morton:

Re: David Wilson

You surely have taken a lot of pains concerning the answer of my query. I wonder where you found this material.

I notice that Mr. Holden does not seem to be too favorably impressed with his historical accuracy except possibly as to the “Jane McCrea”. On rereading the “Solomon Northup” book, of course I do not know about its accuracy except that the legal procedure part of it seems to be precise and is corroborated by the New York Times story of the 20th of January 1853 reporting the case in District of Columbia Court of the 18th of January. This leaves an opportunity for Wilson to build up an imagined story as to the alleged facts which did not directly come into court.

A sort of shadow seems to hang over the story, as witness the gossip of neighbors that Solomon got himself kidnapped. This, to me, seems unthinkable because of Henry

B. Northup’s interest in the case and the procedure he followed to obtain Solomon’s freedom as reported in the book and corroborated by the Times of the time. But it seems, too, that neighbors hereabouts accounted for Solomon’s subsequent disappearance in the same way. I have not taken time as apparently you have to follow this matter out but it is interesting that Mr. Holden indicates that Solomon Northup at one time lived in Whitehall.

Wilson’s letter of the 60s, copy of which you sent me before, and this Northup book show me how far away even I am from fresh understanding of the horrible things slavery and the Civil War were. When I first read the copy of the Wilson letter which you sent me I thought how outstandingly bitter and vindictive he was with respect to the South but then I reflected that that probably was what the war was fought on and it made Lincoln’s spirit of appeasement at the end stand out.

Sincerely,

Local History Sketches
Clarence E. Holden.
CCXXXV

David Wilson, Poet

In Dr. Hall's book of his friends to which we have before referred there is a caricature of David Wilson with some verses written by Robert Turner. We are tempted to copy all verses, but will content ourselves with the last stanza:

Wake up, wake up the melodies
That with thy spirit dwell;
Nor let their music only through
Our northern valleys swell.
Thy soul grants inspiration, and
Thy heart can guide the pen,
To give thee glorious station there
Among thy fellow men.

At the new year of 1844 he published a poem which contains many fine passages. He had recently been married to a beautiful young lady. In his poem he writes:

I lay it down that love's omnipotent,
And that the question is beyond dispute —
and he goes on to prove it by the example of several of his friends, including
Hitchcock, Jones, Alden, Lemon, Davis, House and others. Then presently he drops into
sadder ket:

Perchance someone whose name is herein spoken,
Before there comes another new year's day,
Will pass with brow all pale and spirit broken,
Down death's dread vale to darkness and decay.

Little did he suppose that his own young bride was destined within a few short months to pass into that "dread vale," but she died the following June, aged 20 years. Soon he assumes a more cheerful tone, and opines

Such mournful thoughts like these do ill beseem,
A merry printer's devil such as I.
In his newspaper articles he generally signed him The Printer's Devil.
In another little poem he strikes a lighter strain:
As the great world goes jostling by.
'Tis better far to laugh than cry.

At another time he places his friends, all by name, remember, in the nether regions and gibes them unmercifully.

Yes, there great Potter heaves the woeful sigh
For all the naughty deeds that he has done.

And this of John H. Boyd:
 And Boyd, no more, to see poor devils bored
 Will sit and quiz them in that way of his,
 The Lord be praised, himself will then be floored,
 A change will come over his mischievous phiz.
 He does not spare himself, Witness;
 And a long train of broken Sabbath days
 That should have been in lowly worship passed,
 Will call to Wilson's mind his evil ways
 It seemed the proper thing, even then, to take a fling at the poor old board of
 trustees. In one of his sarcastic poems Wilson compares Canal Street with the Appian
 Way, and mourns:
 Oh, would 'twere true that here at home
 We had trustees like those who once
 Took care of ancient Rome.
 And yet he insists;
 I 'm not inclined to personalities,
 For that would be undoubtedly uncivil,
 And the idea of kicking up a breeze
 Would not become a modest printer's devil

Northup

This colored man was a native of Fort Edward, and at times lived in Whitehall, particularly in the summer of 1831, when he worked for "Dyer Beckwith and a Mr. Bartemy." In 1841 he was enticed away from Saratoga, kidnapped, and sold south in slavery, where he remained until rescued in 1853. The book is well written, even thrilling in certain parts, coming so soon after Uncle Toms Cabin as it did it had considerable circulation 'before the war. It was published simultaneously in Auburn, Buffalo and London, England.

'The last and largest, but the least worthy of his books was published Auburn and New York in 1853. It is called Henerietta Robinson, being an account of the life, adventures and punishment of a noted adventuress and murderess of that name. The culminating crime was the murder of two people in Troy, a man named Lanagan, who kept a grocery on River Street, and a young woman called Lubee, who was visiting at the Lanageras. After a sensational trial she was convicted and sentenced be hung, but the governor commuted her punishment to 1life imprisonment in the face of her violent opposition.

Wilson was an easy and fluent writer, particularly strong as a narrator of incidents, but he did not posses much wit still less imagination. His life of Jane McCrae shows considerable research , but the Northup and Robinson have little merit His Ship Fever story is interesting because of it's local flavor, but the historical made by him in it are almost as in accurate as they could be. His poetry, the few surviving pieces that we have, is of much finer grain, and makes us regret that much of his work has been lost.

But good or bad, with the exception of W. A. Wilkins, Wilson was the only author of any moment that Whitehall has ever produced, and he is entitled to at least a tablet to his memory within the town where he lived and labored.

AMERICAN BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES: P. B. Hough

WILSONS;

Pg 431, Dr. Allen, d at Plainsfield, NJ. 26 May 1842 AE36- "a man of superior talents".

Clara, d near Alton, Ill. 13 Dec. 1859; said to be 125 yrs old. Had been a slave in S.C. and was carried west 70 yrs before her death.

Clarendon J.L., Lieut., 1st Rgt. dragoons, d Albuquerque, N. Mex. 21 Feb. 1853, breveted for bravery in conflicts of E1 Emado and. Taos NM.

David, author of Solomon Northrup, formerly clerk of assembly; d at Albany NY. 9 June 1870 AE 52

Edgar C. NO. VA. lawyer, congress man, Wheeling Dist. d at home Morgantime, 24 Apr. 1860.

Isaac b Batavia Ill. 25 Oct. 1848; War of 1812 commanded Co of cavalry, served both houses of NY. legislature. 1823 to congress after term was appointed judge of Genesee So. NY. until removal to Ill.

James b Adams Co. Pa., 28 Apr. 1779; d Gettysburg Pa. July 1868 Justice of peace 1- 11-1859; member of congress, 1823-29.

James d 28 July 1824; U.S. Senator 1815-21 from NJ.; postmaster Trenton, d 28 July 1824;

Lieut. John, b Va., killed Eutaw Springs, 8 Sepy. 1781

John, d Plainfield, NJ. Mar. 11, 1840; AL ,65; judge of county court.

John b 1777, grad. Harvard 1799; lawyer, congress from Mass 1813-15; 17-19; d Belfast Ne. 9 July, 1848

John, vocalist, composer, d Quebec, 8 July 1849

Pg 432, John, d Maine, 1 Nov. 1859; AE 103;

John A. d 14 Sept 1841, Wash D.C. U.S. Marshall, Dist of Columbia

Jonathan, Capt. Mass. Troops, killed Concord Mass. 19 Apr. 1775

Capt. J.D. (of steamer) Siena, Nevada; d Panama, 1 Mar. 1853

Louis D., col. 12th Inf. d Vera Cruz, Mex. 13 Aug. 1847; 20 year member of legislature of No. Carolina.. 1842-43 speaker of senate

Mrs. Nathaniel, d at Wilson's Mills, Oxford Co. Me.; 1 Nov. 1859 AL 103 years 8 mo. 3 dy.

Capt. Robert d Charleston S.C. 31 Oct 1846; AL 82, president of Marine Society, boarding officer for customs house; Pa. in his youth on board a privateer was captured and settled in Charleston after release.

General Robert d St. Louis Mo., 9 May 1870, AE 68

The Whitehall Times
April 28, 1988

“Tug Boats I Have Known”
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

“Tugboats I Have Known” is a new book recently published. Its author is Fred G. Godfrey of Glens Falls. Many Whitehallers probably know him or know of his father whose occupation was also on the tugs. From time to time Mr. Godfrey has also produced articles on tugboats.

This book will be introduced to the public at an autograph party May 1 at the Fort Edward Museum, The Fort House, from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. where the author will greet his friends and sign his autograph.

The boats described in this book, which reads almost autographically, are those of Mr. Godfrey traveled on Lake Champlain, Champlain Canal and the Barge Canal, the Erie Canal, New York Harbor, and even Lake Ontario for fifty eight years. The first boat the author had acquaintance with was the Triton, well known in Whitehall in the early teens of the twentieth century. After this first baby nap, he later became deckhand- cook on the boat.

Following his stated purpose, “to record some of the details of the life aboard tugboats,” Mr. Godfrey described life on those boats from the early wooden ones through the steel hull type, from the small ones to those that pushed the big harbor scows and oil tankers. He passed through the gamut of positions of deckhand - cook, dredge deckhand, first and second mate and captain, and licensed pilot on most of the waters he traveled on.

The reader will learn about every day life on the tugs, hear the names of the fleets like the Murray, Kehoe, and Moran. He will hear again the names of men on the boats like Bill Whalen and brothers Matt of Whitehall. This account will answer the questions of laymen about the conditions of life on the water. It will also answer queries such as why pilots would not leave Whitehall after dark when northward bound; how a tug boat could lose its way in a minefield in New York Harbor; why so many propellers are on the bottom of “The Stumps;” how meals could be produced in such small spaces.

Fred G. Godfrey’s books “Tugboats I Have Known” gives all this information and much more. The autograph party should be fun.

The Whitehall Times
April 28, 1988

The Washington County News March, 1871
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In the seventh issue of the Washington County News announcement was made that the book “Life in Whitehall in Ship Fever Times” would be serialized in the News. It was written by David Wilson, a lawyer of Whitehall. He represented Whitehall in the State Assembly. His home was on Williams Street in what is still called the Newcomb House.

The time of the book was 1849 during the period of the docked ship line. At this period occurred the potato famine in Ireland and many Irish immigrated to the United States, many in destitute conditions. One route was to Canada and up Lake Champlain to the Port of Whitehall. The book portrays the hardships of these people at that time and gives the reason for Whitehall's unfavorable reputation. Mr. Wilson knew the facts at first hand and described them vividly so that an accurate picture is given. Characters and building are true. He was not informed on the life of Skene and his family and that part is not true.

Mr. Wilson wrote other books and a biography of Jane McCrae, among them. "Life in Whitehall" was published chapter by chapter in the "Whitehall." In 1871 it was serialized in "Washington County News" with some additions, and in 1900 it was published by the 'Whitehall Chronicle' in book form. This is the one that many people in Whitehall still own. It is valuable for Whitehall history as the publishers included many pictures of the village and citizens at the turn of the century.

The Whitehall Times
April 28, 1988

The Washington County News May, 1871
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

"Life in Ship Fever Times in Whitehall" by David Wilson reprint began in Washington County News 6, May 1871. It ran chapter by chapter on the front page of the paper, presumably until the end. For 'the research library's copies, stop with Volume 1, Number 27 the 16 of September 1871. The library would like any other issues that may be stored in someone's storage place of Whitehall's treasures.

The Whitehall Independent
December 19, 1984

Christmas Time 100 Years Ago In Whitehall
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Editor W. A. Wilkins' novel "The Cleverdale Mystery; or The Machine and it's 52 Wheels" was advertised for sale for \$1.00.

The Whitehall Independent
August 24, 1983

Whitehall, New York Brochure
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Surprises come in the mail quite often and are very welcome, as was the envelope of brochures on Whitehall and the lakes recently received from the New England National Bank of Boston.

We know what we send out in brochures now. It is interesting to compare what was sent out a while ago.

Location: Midway between New York City and Montreal on the Hudson-Champlain Trail; in a land of hills and winding streams. Most important railroad, water and highway transportation terminal in Northern New York State. State Highway 22 from New York and new military highway, U.S. Route 4, to New England. On Lake Champlain, for the deep water anglers, and the Mettawee River, one of the best stocked trout streams in the state. 12 miles from Huletts Landing on Lake George, the Queen of American Lakes, and only a few miles from many of Vermont's most beautiful lakes.

History: Scene of battle fought in French and Indian War by Gen. Israel Putnam (Put's Rock). Scene of first military action in New York State in the American Revolution and Birthplace of the American Navy (we now say United States Navy). First civilian settlement on Lake Champlain and third oldest incorporated village in the state. American fleet and British vessels were sunk here after the Battle of Plattsburgh in the War, of 1812.

Strong and Cooperative Service Corporations: Delaware and Hudson Railroad, New York Power and Light Company, New York Telephone Company, Merchants National Bank (Key), Whitehall Cooperative Savings and Loan Association (Troy Savings Bank), The Whitehall Times, Borden Farm Products Co., (nonexistent).

Industries: Champlain Spinners, Inc. fine spun yarns (nonexistent); Production Devices, Inc. Air Lox Vises; Putnam Manufacturing Co. Kay McDowell Originals (nonexistent); Whitehall Dress Co. McKettrick Classics (nonexistent); G. Guerdon Hardy Baits (nonexistent); Northern Specialty Co. fishing tackle (nonexistent); Whitcomb Hardware, Mettawee Valley Trout Flies (nonexistent). Large deposit of high quality silica and limestone.

Whitehall has an unlimited supply of unsurpassed pure mountain water and more miles of paved streets and sidewalks than any village its size in the country. It has six churches (eight), a modern theater (none), one of the largest single company armories in the state, 52 stores (133 businesses), bus transportation (not local), a highly rated public school faculty and excellent recreational facilities.

This brochure, like so many printed, does not have a date. It was in the area of the late 1920's and 1930's.

The Whitehall Independent
August 3, 1983

Whitehall, New York Brochure
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

For those whose interests lie in the industries, buildings, events, and people of the past and present, two written accounts will be of interest.

One is a recently published book "Their Own Voices". It is a collection of reminiscences of early settlers of Washington County. Through the period of 1847-1878 a prominent physician of Salem, New York, spent much of his leisure obtaining interviews from the county pioneers on many subjects and events. He recorded them in their own words - hence the title of the book. Clarence Holden did the same thing in 1917-1927 with early people of Whitehall.

Dr. Fitch's material is in the Genealogical Society of New York City from where a copy was made for Washington County and from which the editor, Mrs. Winston Adler, obtained her material. Fascinated with the contents she selected accounts that dealt with each of the towns within the county and made them into a book. It is recently on the market.

Gleaned from the pages for Skenesborough is the story of Captain Barnes' visit to Skenesborough House and the coffin story known to be erroneous; the Tories who fled to the British forces in the settlement for protection; a description of Philip Skene as a large, portly, fine looking man and his son Andrew small and slim; a listing of the buildings near the falls; and the story of the McCalls and the raid in March 1780.

The second printed material is a magazine called "Adirondack Bits N' Pieces". The first volume, number one, promises to be just that. This issue has articles on industries, basketry, a small radio station; personalities like Benedict Arnold and VerPlanck Colvin, developer of the Adirondacks; events like the white water derby, a visit to an iron mine; and many other items like the story of Champ of Lake Champlain and moon shining; and shorts like the tally-ho coach and the Adirondack Winter Carnival.

Printed with black and white pictures, it promises to be an interesting quarterly to tell of the Adirondack area. Although Whitehall is not within the Adirondack Park, it does have Pemberton Mountain within the chain and the head of Lake Champlain from which its steamboats carried the early vacationists who opened up the district for leisure time resorts for rich and poor alike. Look for the second issue soon to be on the newsstands.

The Whitehall Times
October 7, 1982

Whitehall in October 1882
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

W.A. Wilkins novel, "The Cleverdale Mystery; or the Machine and Its Wheels," was published at this time. Reviews said of it: The scene is in Central New York. Senator Hamblin, Cyrus Hart Miller, ex-Assemblyman Daly, Paddy Sullivan, Editor Rawlings, and other characters are recognized as types, if not portraits of working politicians. The whole book is nonpartisan, a crisp, sparkling novel." It was reviewed in this column a while back.

The Whitehall Times
December 31, 1981

Old Tales With a New Twist
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Gathering information about Whitehall history and people comes about in a variety of ways. I found out about "Old Tales with a New Twist; Sermons on Genesis Texts" by a Whitehall through historical meetings in Watertown and Plattsburgh.

Last fall I met Mrs. Addie Shields, a Clinton county historian at her booth of Plattsburgh materials where I purchased Dr. Everest's new book on the War of 1812 in the Champlain Valley. Several months later I met her again at a meeting in Plattsburgh. At this time she had discovered that Richard D. Campbell who wrote "Old Tales" came from a Whitehall family. Her sister lives in Whitehall. I had not heard of the booklet and she offered to obtain copies and have them autographed

Richard D. Campbell was born in Whitehall 8 September 1935 a son of Earl Campbell and a grandson of Jerome Campbell. He was educated in schools of Saranac Lake, Mechanicville and Scotia and was graduated from Drew University School of Theology. His pastoral duties have been performed in Bennington, Vt., and the United Methodist church of Plattsburgh where he serves the second largest church in the Methodist Conference. He lives in Morrisville with his wife and two sons.

The booklet consists of five sermons based on texts from Genesis which were also delivered to WIRY radio audiences in northeastern New York and Northwestern Vermont. Each section consists of an interesting thought followed by discussion of the point and a conclusion. They are essays filled with thought, common sense and humor. The titles are arresting: No-fault Sin, A Gift that was Rejected, Does God ever Give Up, The Tower That Pride Built, and Making the Best of Life's Bad Deals.

I was pleased with the, autograph in my copy; 'To Doris Morton, Appointed Historian by my revered grandfather, Jerome E. Campbell.' It reaches back to the 50's when Mrs. Elizabeth Carpenter resigned as town historian and Mr. Campbell asked if I

would fill the vacancy. I didn't realize at the time that I was embarking on a long period of interesting and rewarding research.

The second copy is inscribed for the Research Library users. "It may be of interest to readers of this volume to know that I was born in the Village of Whitehall September 8,

1935. Whitehall is for me a place of fond memories and significant personal history. It is the place of my roots."

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Campbell and Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Van Buskirk are representatives of the Campbell family still in Whitehall.

The Whitehall Times **July 10, 1980**

Rev. Lewis Kellogg's History of Whitehall **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

In the 26 May 1880 issue of The Whitehall Times, parts of the discourse entitled by its author 'A Sketch of the History of Whitehall, Civil and Religious,' were printed. The discourse was delivered 27 June 1847 by the Rev. Lewis Kellogg, a clergyman for ten years at that time in the First Presbyterian Church.

An original copy of this paper is in the Historical Miscellany in Glens Falls Library. Doubtless copies of it are in homes around Whitehall as it was printed in pamphlet form by the Whitehall Chronicle in 1847. My copy was furnished from the collection of Roxana Lewis Blackmore.

Mr. Kellogg used as his Bible text that Sunday, "Remember the days of old." He gave a history of Whitehall from his own research of available material and followed it with a history of the Presbyterian Church. As in all research, newer resources correct older statements. Such as I have found I shall indicate but all research on Whitehall history has not been completed or authenticated yet.

The discourse: A century ago the forest of this region echoed with the hostile cannon of the two most powerful nations of Europe. The ledge of this lake' shore about a mile north of this place, well known by the designation of Put's Rock, is a memento of the carnage of that conflict.

To one seeking for accurate historical information, it is annoying to find such looseness in giving localities, scenery and facts, in some of our histories. For example, Cutler in his biography of Putnam says he was sent to South Bay at the foot of Lake George.

Mr. Headley, following doubtless other historians, says Putnam's position was on Wood Creek where it falls into the lake, but no such scenery as he describes is to be found on Wood Creek, at least for several miles from the lake, to say nothing of the ludicrous idea of 500 men gliding in canoes up to the falls at its mouth (accounts report 500 men, 250 of whom were killed by Putnam's 35 men).

Some apology for the confusion which the reader of history will find in giving localities in this region exists in the fact that in early times the head of Lake Champlain

was problematical. French historians fixed it at Ticonderoga; some others seem to have placed it at the head of South Bay, though I believe it has long been settled by geographers that the head of Lake Champlain is the harbor of Whitehall. (The affair at Put's Rock is related here.)

Within the memory of some of our citizens the whole brow of the hill east of Church Street (Church Street extended from High Street to a short distance south of the Trinity Church property) and south of High Street was enclosed by an embankment which formed the base of a picket fort said to have been constructed during that war (French and Indian War) (The height of the embankment and extent of the area can be seen in the eminence of the Presbyterian church and the height west of Center Street). Within that enclosure was a huge block house erected near the close of the last century (It was here when Skene settled Skenesborough in 1759 and furnished with portholes.)

The painting of the Harbor of Whitehall in 1819 by Hudson River painter Milbert shows the blockhouse on this site). Within that edifice some now among us have listened to orations on the anniversary of our independence, and occasionally to religious services on the Sabbath conducted by some traveling missionary. It stood on or near the spot now occupied by the residence of J. H. Boyd, Esq. (between High Street south to Division on the east side was a row of five houses. The second one south of High Street belonged to J.H. Boyd. The first town record shows that some of the early town meetings were held in the block house.)

(The history goes on and I'll continue the relating of it from time to time.)

The Whitehall Times

August 7, 1980

Rev. Lewis Kellogg's History of Whitehall (Continued)

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

At its close (the French and Indian War) this town was distributed in lots of 200 acres each as bounty land to soldiers who had served in that war. (These bounty lands were in the southwest area around Whitehall).

Philip K. Skene, an English major on half pay, it appears, purchased for a trifle a large number of these grants and to protect his title secured a Royal patent. (K was not Skene's middle initial. His middle name was Wharton, from a friend of his father's. Philip dropped the W. from his signature. He purchased four of these bounty lands from the soldiers. On one of them was his saw mill and blockhouse at Kane's Falls in Fort Ann). He effected a settlement at the head of navigation on Lake Champlain. This settlement he called Skenesborough which name it bore till after the war of the revolution.

He subsequently secured more military grants, and obtained a second patent. One of these covered 20,000 acres and the other 9,000. (Kellogg's note) The date of these patents I have not learned, and I am not able to say which was obtained first— together they embraced the whole of the present town of Whitehall except 4,000 acres on its eastern front.

(The land Philip secured - by patent was 25,000 acres in a square on both sides of Wood creek in 1765; and 20,000 acres by patent northeast of the first patent, 9,000 of

which became known as Skene's Little Patent in 1771. He bought McIntosh's 2,000 acres in 1773 to the northeast of the Little Patent; in 1769 his son Andrew was granted 2,000 acres in the same area. In 1771 also Philip was granted 3,000 acres in Westport and the Cheever mines.

Skene was a magistrate of the Crown and sometimes received the title of Governor. (Skene held no army office from the time he sold out of the British army. He was appointed Lieutenant Governor and Surveyor of His Majesty's Woods in January, 1775). He was the owner of several slaves (he sent 20 from Havannah to Skenesborough while he was in service there). His residence was a stone building nearly opposite the present dwelling of Joseph Jillson of Williams Street. He erected a stone edifice 130 feet long on the place now occupied by a garden of the family of the late Judge Wheeler. (According to early maps and descriptions Skene's house and barn were at north end of Skene Mountain. A map shows the barn in line with and back of the house). It was designed as a military garrison. (Skene designed it as a building for his blooded cattle and horses) but I am not aware that it was ever used as such unless during the short time Burgoyne's army lay here in 1777. (Burgoyne had it loopholed in 1777). Its walls, or portions of them, were standing within the recollection of many of our citizens. A portion of it was appropriated to the storage of agricultural products, and it was called Skene's barn. Near the east end was an arched gateway, the keystone of which may now be seen in the north basement wall of the Baptist church. It bears the initials PKS and the date 1770. (The church burned in 1874 and the keystone, after some adventures, came to rest on the mantle of Phoenix F. & A.m. lodge. The letters stand for Philip, Katharine Skene).

The Whitehall Times

August 21, 1980

Rev. Lewis Kellogg's History of Whitehall (Continued)

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

On the 9th of May, 1775, the day on which Ethan Allen and his followers left Castle- ton to surprise and capture Ticonderoga, a small party of provincials from Connecticut (other colonies were involved) left the same place to secure the possession of Skenesborough. This was the first aggressive movement of the colonies in the Revolutionary War, being nearly six weeks before the Battle of Bunker Hill.

This place was secured without opposition. Skene was absent or concealed, and they pillaged his house for supplies.

Kellogg's note: Some accounts say he was captured. I think this is a mistake. (Skene was at sea, coming back from England. His son, Andrew Philip, was captured.)

I have an account of the expedition from a son of one of the party, and with it the well known story that they found the body of Skene's wife in the cellar, which it was said to have been preserved by him for several years, to secure an annuity devised to her "while she remained above ground." Kellogg's note: I believe the substance of this story to be authentic and I notice it as an incident in the, early history of the place illustrating human cupidity and fraud. (Skene's wife had been buried in a special vault in the cellar.

This story of the reason for it is ridiculous and is refuted by a soldier who was in Skenesborough at the time who stated that it was propaganda against Skene as he was so well liked by the people in the area.)

They took the body and buried it in the rear of the building. Skene retired to Canada and ultimately joined the army under Burgoyne. (Skene went on to Philadelphia where he was taken prisoner and went back to England as an exchange. He came back in 1777 to join Burgoyne at Crown Point but not as a member of the army.)

The possession of the place was indispensable to the command of the lake — an objective of great importance to the colonies — and Gen. Schuyler was ordered to repair the public works. A garrison was stationed here, and in 1776 vessels and bateaux were constructed and a little fleet fitted out in our harbor which was put under the command of Arnold. Kellogg's note: The fleet of Arnold on Lake Champlain when largest consisted of three schooners, two sloops, three galleys and eight bateaux, carrying in all 70 guns. With this he had a fierce encounter with the British in considerably larger in force, under Valcour Island a little above Plattsburgh.

On the night of July 5, 1777, the Americans were driven from Ticonderoga. They placed their stores and baggage in Bateaux and sent them under a small convoy to this place. The embarkation was discovered by the lights of a building recklessly fired by the retreating troops and the British dispatched two frigates and several gun boats in pursuit.

Gen. Mattoon, late of Amherst, Mass., was a subaltern in the convoy and from him I have a minute account of the adventure. Before they reached the landing their pursuers were in sight and they hastily left their boats and dispersed. He thought the number of houses here at that time did not exceed four. One of these whose inmates appeared to be French; he entered and called for refreshments, but before he could partake of them a cannon ball from one of the pursuing frigates entered the house, crushing the table and scattered refreshments over the room. To one or two bateaux matches were applied by the Americans as they retired, and they were blown up. The remainder of the stores were all captured in our harbor and destroyed or appropriated by the enemy. (The British captured row galley Trumbull and schooner Liberty and used them many years. Row galley Gates, schooner Revenge, and sloop Enterprise were destroyed).

Burgoyne immediately moved on to this place with the main body of his army. He arrived on the first frigate.) He lay here two or three weeks constructing a road through to Fort Ann, arranging baggage trains, advancing his heavy artillery, etc., in preparation for moving on to Fort Edward.

During his stay Burgoyne and his staff were entertained by Skene at his own house, and the tents of his bannered host, thus triumphant, whitened the spot where we now so triumphantly worship, spreading over the entire eminence from Church Street to the base of the mountain (and on the east side to the top of Skene Mountain).

The Whitehall Times
September 4, 1980

Rev. Lewis Kellogg's History of Whitehall (Continued)
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Skene, being well acquainted with the country, was sent out from Fort Edward with the detachment to Bennington and was in the battle of that place. (Skene had remained in Skenesborough planning to return to Canada but Burgoyne sent for him to help with the expedition.) I have been told by one who was there, that being personally known to many of the Americans, they made a great effort to capture him alive, though with no design of mercy. Kellogg's note; It is said that to effect that object they shot four horses from under him, but mounting a fifth, he made his escape, though the horse that bore him off soon died of his wounds.

The capture of Burgoyne at Schuylerville thoroughly crushed the power of the English and their adherents in this quarter. A detachment of the American forces was stationed at the head of Lake George whose scouts kept a regular, watch over this place, but I am not aware that it was the scene of any important incident from this period to the close of the war.

Skene was obliged to return to England and his house was burnt, it is said, by his own direction to prevent it passing into the hands of the disloyal and rebellious Americans. (In 1780 a force from Canada surprised the small group of soldiers at Skenesborough House and destroyed it and the barn. Andrew was one of the white men.) Kellogg's note: Would it be very unreasonable to suppose it was done by Americans in commemoration of the service it had rendered their foe? (It was an American manned outpost for the protection of the land to the south).

His lands were confiscated and sold by the state. The purchasers were John Williams of this county, Joseph Stringham and John Murray. The latter two subsequently transferred their title to General Williams — M. Stringham in 1802 and Mr. Murray in 1803. (Other men bought land in Skenesborough besides John Williams, though he was the largest purchaser.)

In 1788 the Town of Whitehall was organized in the county that four years before had received the name of the immortal leader of our revolutionary struggle. There is one resident of our village who has been here since 1790, Gideon Taft, Esq. He thinks the number of houses at that time did not exceed eight — four having been added in the 13 years preceding. (It must be remembered that he is speaking of the area around the harbor.)

In 1812 this place again became the scene of military operations. The block house within the lines of the old fort was furnished with artillery and garrisoned for the defense of this place and barracks were erected on the brow of the hill west of Church Street, portions of which are still standing. After the battle of Plattsburgh, Sept. 11, 1814, the naval armament of the lake, with the vessels captured from the British in that engagement, were anchored in our harbor. It was at that period that the entrenchments and magazine were constructed, the remains of which are still seen on the island a few hundred yards north of the village.

Reverend Kellogg continues a bit of the early history of the village and then gives a history of the First Presbyterian church to 1847.

The Whitehall Times
November 29, 1979

Johnson's History of Washington County
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A reprint of Christfield Johnson's History of Washington County, 1878 is being distributed in County Historical Society in exact size and content.

This book is the result of a monumental labor, concerning the history of the county from Pre-Revolutionary days to 1878, with a detailed section for each of the 17 towns.

Ever jealous of Whitehall's place in history, I am listing some errors stated in the early history of the town. This is not to depreciate this great work of Christfield Johnson, but to add information unavailable to him at the time of his writing. Even today the story of Philip Skene has not been told fully. Its sources are widely scattered in archives of several countries and states in individual collections of official papers.

Page 473, "A half pay English officer Major Philip Skene." Skene wanted to stay in his colony at the head of Lake Champlain rather than to go back to Ireland with his Inniskillin Regiment. On 4 December, 1769, he sold his commission to Lt. Lawrence Parsons of the Tenth Foot. This buying and selling of commissions was common at that time. Another Philip Skene retired from the 72nd Regiment.

The title, Major, was granted him on two occasions when he was appointed Major of Brigade of the Northern Army on 31 July 1759 at, Crown Point and on August 1762 at Havannah.

Page 473. "He (Skene) entered on this domain in 1761." In his first memorial to King George, via General Amherst 10 November 1759, Skene requested a patent to land he had already settled.

Page 473 Footnote "From the letters P.K.S. in the stone over the door of his dwelling, it has been inferred that he had a middle name beginning with K; but he signed himself "Philip Skene," and was so designated in all his records."

Skene's wife's name was Katharine. That accounts for the K. Skene's middle name was Wharton after a friend of his father, but Skene remarked that he did not use his middle name.

Page 473. "By courtesy he was designated as "Governor Skene," probably on account of a project which he was known to the erection of Northern New York and Vermont into a separate royal province, under himself as chief magistrate."

The original manuscript of George 111 appointing Philip Skene Lieutenant Governor of our forts at Crown Point and at Ticonderoga" on 28 January 1775 is in the Public Record Office in London. On 16 February he received an additional appointment of "Inspector into the state of all lands not claimed as private property" in Quebec and New York laying on Lake Champlain. Skene had gone to London in 1774 and returned to America in 1775. (To be continued)

The Whitehall Times
July 26, 1979

Johnson's History of Washington County
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

One hundred years ago this large volume of county history was published for each of the persons subscribing for it. The list of these subscribers is a valuable source of vital statistics in itself.

The reprint of this volume is being presented through the Washington County Historical Society. It will be the same size as the original with the heavy brown cloth cover with gold embellishments. It will include the 504 pages containing the history of Washington County, the 161 pages of plates and the histories of each of the 17 towns. With these are biographies of prominent townspeople.

Ever jealous of Whitehall's history, I regret the book cannot be updated as our founding date and a great deal of information about Skene and his work are incorrect. This is indicated in the later research of many historians since Crisfield Johnson. But it's such a goldmine of information that cannot be found now because of many fires in town buildings.

The flyer announcing the book may be sent with the check to Washington County Historical Society P.O. Box 106, Fort Edward, N.Y. 12828. Since mailing charges would be large on such a volume, Whitehall's town historian will bring the Whitehall orders to her home for distribution.

Those who have the original history in bookshelf or attic have a fairly rare book.

The Whitehall Times
January 3, 1980

Christfield Johnson's History of Washington
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Page 474. Isaac Weld, Jr., made a tour of the United States and 'reported that Skenesborough was infested with mosquitoes — "these insects were of a much larger size than any I ever saw elsewhere and their bite was uncommonly venomous. General Washington told me that he never was so much annoyed in any part of America as at Skenesborough, for they used to "bite through the thickest of boots." Other writers have written of the mosquito blight in Skenesborough, of the great swarms that bothered especially at night, but General Washington couldn't have spoken from personal experience for he did not visit this place on his northern trip. He went north by way of Lake George and returned south by way of Utica and Albany, according to the map of his journey.

Page 32. Mr. Johnson implied that Skenesborough was settled in 1761, the same year of Salem and Cambridge. But by November, 1759, Philip Skene had settled 30 families in the area at the head of Lake Champlain, attested by his letter of that date. He

had already presented his memorial for the land to the King which was finally granted much later.

Page 40. This company (commanded by Capt. Herrick) “seized Major Skene’s schooner and took it with them to Ticonderoga.” This company did not go to Ticonderoga but remained in Skenesborough to plunder. Two days later, 11 May, Arnold’s recruiters took the Skene family to Ticonderoga in the schooner.

The story of Skene’s brown Spanish horse being used by Arnold at Saratoga has been discounted by Arnold’s biographers.

Page 41 “(Skene’s) property rapidly went to destruction.” His lands were put in the hands of overseers by the Americans and the mills run.

One regrets that the papers used by May Belle Curtis in her novel “Kathy of Skenesborough” and sent to the people of Whitehall have disappeared and that Skene’s personal papers brought with him from England were destroyed by his own hand in Philadelphia. Other papers are wide scattered, but at least one young historian of promise in New York State History department is also searching for material. Perhaps we will learn much more of Skene and Skenesborough in the not too far future.

The Whitehall Times December 6, 1979

Christfield Johnson’s History of Washington (2) Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Page 473, “erected for himself a stone mansion about 30 by 40 feet in size, two and a half stories high.” Skenesborough House was a typical English mansion house 56 x 46 feet with an ell 30 x 20 feet, two and a half stories high. The keystone over the entrance had the initials PKS (Philip, Katharine Skene) and the date 1770. This keystone was used in the basement wall of the first Episcopal Church at the corner of Division and present Broadway. The Baptist church, which purchased the early one, burned in 1874 and the keystone was placed for safekeeping in the vault of the First National Bank at the northwest corner of Division and present Main Streets It now rests in the Masonic Temple, on the site of those two early churches.

Page 473 footnote: “these (two patents) together covered all of the town of Whitehall except the McIntosh grant of about 4,000 acres on the east side and also embraced the northern extremity of the present town of Hampton.” On 2 May 1764 Lt. Wm. McIntosh had been granted as a reduced officer 2,000 acres of land which lay to the north of the Little Patent. Philip Skene bought it on 11 February 1773. It, added to Andrew’s grant of 2,000 on 22 August 1769 as a reduced lieutenant of the 72nd Regiment, made 4,000 acres of Skene land outside the Little Patent. These titles were listed in the Book of the Council of New York and the schedule of Philip Skene’s lands.

Pages 473-474. “The mansion stood fronting the creek on a site now partially or entirely occupied by the roadway of Williams Street, and near the residence of the late Joseph Jillson.” There is debate about the location of Skene’s house or Skenesborough House. It is described as opposite the fort and 40 rods from the falls of Wood Creek.

This position is shown on a map of the Northern Department of North America. It shows a building labeled Skene's house facing the east side of the harbor. Another map, a soldier's freehand sketch from the Documentary History of New York, shows the house located at the same place facing the lake. A map in the Manuscript Room in the Albany State Library shows the "ruins" of Skene's House on a lot north of Skene Mountain.

When the British troops were quartered in Skenesborough, one section was placed to the north with the newly fortified barn in its center; another formed on the right of Skenesborough House nearer the lake and extended on the left to the first one. It hardly seems possible these would be placed on the side of a mountain.

An older citizen of Whitehall reported the house was on the south side of present Burt Hill with the barn in back where the lookout point could be the lake and would be within the description of "opposite the fort." This is approximately the location suggested by surveyor Fred Palmer who spent a year's study of the terrain and maps. This location would be also near the open land back of the mountain for the grazing of Skene's animals.

The Whitehall Times December 13, 1979

Christfield Johnson's History of Washington (3) Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Page 474. "It (Skene's barn) stood at a spot embraced in the property of Judge Wheeler on Skene Street above Wheeler Avenue. It was 130 feet in length and the walls were pierced, evidently for musketry, suggesting the idea of a place for refuge and defense in case of attack, though it may also have been used as a barn or stable."

Skene was very proud of his barn which in a letter to his agent in New York City 19 December 1770, "I have put the finishing strokes to my barn but was much embarrassed for want of nails." The barn stood in back of Skenesborough House. In his various memorials to the English government he described it as a stone building 134 feet long with out offices built at a cost of several hundred pounds. This building was made into a fortified post in 1777 for His Majesty's service with the British forces when Burgoyne was in Skenesborough and thus rendered useless. The material from which it was constructed as in Skene's words, "the prettiest blue stone you ever saw," which describes the limestone in the northeast part of the Town of Whitehall, east of Wood creek.

Such a large structure was needed, 134 by 35 feet, for the blooded cattle and horses Skene raised for trade. Judge Melancthon Wheeler later owned land at the north of Skene's Mountain where the barn was located. It could have stood on his land. The barn was destroyed in March 1780 along with Skenesborough House and other buildings in the raid from Canada.

Page 474. 'Accordingly on the 13th of May, 1775, a party of volunteers, under command of Captain Herrick, marched to Skenesborough which they captured without opposition.' Skenesborough was captured in the afternoon of 9 May 1775 in the first

aggressive Revolutionary War action in New York State. Fort Ticonderoga was captured 10 May.

Page 474. Footnote contains the story of Mrs. Skene's coffin. This is a story that for some unknown reason, according to some historians, out lived its propaganda usefulness and is still repeated whenever Whitehall's history is related. The source of this story is a comment from British Lt. Digby's diary kept when he and his wife were in Skenesborough with Burgoyne's army in 1777. He told the story of the myth that was being circulated, but, what copiers forget to add, that it was propaganda intended to ruin Skene's reputation among his tenants.

Page 474. "His stone mansion at Skenesborough was destroyed by fire, kindled, as many said, by his own direction, to prevent it from falling into the hands of his foes." Skene was in England in 1780 when the building was destroyed. His son Andrew was still in British service in Canada at this time. He was with the Canadian force that raided Skenesborough and saw his old home destroyed.

Page 474. "The price paid for all the (confiscated) lands was 14 pounds 10 shillings, their first bid, there being no competition at the sale." This sum was the cost of surveying the lands by Alexander Webster. The Book of Forfeitures gives the sum of purchase for each of the lots sold. A part of the land, 35,000 acres, was sold for 20,729 pounds, a far cry from 14 pounds 10 shillings.

The Whitehall Times

October 4, 1979

Hamlet Summers

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Hamlet Summers, a brief history of Huletts Landing, has been reprinted by the Washington County Historical Society. It is the third book being presented to the public within a year, the other two being Fred Stiles' From Then Till Now and the reprint of Christfield Johnson's History of Washington County, 1878.

Although in another town, Huletts Landing has closeness with Whitehall in historic events and their participants, in family stories, in recreation, and transportation. Begun in 1941 with the simple desire to record some history of the summer resort before the information was lost, the booklet was printed in 1953 under the compilation of Katherine Hansen. Much of it is written in the first person as inhabitants gave their reminiscences of the early years of the colony.

The history begins with the period just after the Civil War when the area shortly after became known as the "Summer Paradise." Hiram and Marietta Vowers established a boarding house for summer guests where for years the Jelliffes, Howlands, Kitchels and Durands had picnicked and camped. Soon families of these first visitors and their friends bought land and established second homes. Still others made year round homes.

The letters of Rev. Oscar B. Howes' mother relate incidents of the community from 1873-1879 when her house was being built. The stories of Rev. Hawes, Mabel Rand, Emily Kimball and Elizabeth Danford provide information of night tours on Lake

George, row boat trips, climbing Mount Elephant to watch the sun rise, Sunday night sings and rattlesnakes.

In some detail are the stories of the Mountain Grove Memorial Church and its church guilds, the Hamlet Aquatic Club and Lake George steamers. The booklet records the way of life not only in Hulets Landing but in similar communities where the same ways of entertainment were followed in the later 19th and early 20th centuries.

The last of the booklet is devoted to genealogical information that family researchers will find a practical gold mine. This list of names shows that Whitehall families and Hulets Landing residents have been related in recreation and work for a long period of time. They still participate with each other in affairs of the community. The families include Beach, Bynge, Condit, Danford, Durand, Hawes, Howland, Jelliffes, Hopps, Kemp, Kimball, Kitchel, Pederson, Ferguson, Knight, Marsh, Moore, Nelson, Newell, Palmer, Peters, Reilly, Snodgrass, Stablers, Stockbridge, Starr, Terry.

The Whitehall Times
January 4, 1979

Fred Tracy Stiles
From Then Till Now
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

At a tea Sunday in the town hall of Fort Ann, Fred Stiles autographed several hundred of his newly published book, "From Then Till Now; History and Tales of the Adirondack Foothills."

From 2 until 4 o'clock a long line of friends, neighbors and history buffs wound by Mr. Stiles as he shook hands and not only signed his name but added a note of friendship to his signature

This eleven by eight and one-half inch book is filled with the tales of a section of Washington County known as South Bay in the Town of Fort Ann. Here Mr. Stiles' ancestors owned land since before the American Revolution and his family has lived on an almost self-sustaining farm.

The fascinating tales cover the stories of great-great grandmother Granny Rhodes passed on by word of mouth, to tales of Fred's own days. They are written in a delightful manner, lively, entertaining. Besides entertainment they provide information about the manner of life of our ancestors including livelihoods, amusements and philosophy. The manuscript is augmented with many photographs of people and places. A glance at the table of contents shows such interesting names as Hogtown, Brookside, Welch Hollow, and Kanes Falls.

The history part is supplied with factual sketches well authenticated, of surrounding areas — Whitehall, Lake George, Glens Falls, Sandy Hill and Fort Edward.

The book is a "labor of love" prepared over a long period of time so that his children, to whom he dedicated the book, will know of their heritage.

The Washington County Historical Society published the book. The publication committee of the society, besides other members of the society, were at the autographing,

greeting friends who came and serving tea. They are pleased that they have helped fulfill one purpose of the Washington County Historical society to preserve the history of Washington County, and happy that such men as Fred Stiles, with the encouragement and aid of his wife, Kay Stiles, take the time and trouble to record it.

Copies of the book may be purchased from the Washington County Planning Board office in Fort Edward from Mrs. Sally Brillon. The town historian of Whitehall will be pleased to obtain copies for people in Whitehall if notified.

The Whitehall Times
August 24 1978

August 1878
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

During the month of August, Christfeld Johnson's "History of Washington County" was distributed by William Reed. It was published by Everts and Ensign who have often been noted as its authors. In cataloging a copy of the book recently I discovered the reason for this error, I think as this particular copy lacked the part that named the author.

The' advertisement read "Great care has been taken to make this history complete in every detail. Elegantly illustrated, it is handsomely printed and contains biographies of many of our old citizens." Information on the 17 'towns of Washington County although in some cases newer information gained cleared up some points, a fact true in all history. It does not contain all citizens as it was supported by subscription those subscribers had priority.

The Whitehall Times
June 16, 1977

Ralph Nading Hill
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Activities on Lake Champlain and the history of Whitehall always have been related. In observance of the 1977 200th anniversary of Vermont's statehood and the 150th anniversary of the Burlington Free Press, Ralph Nading Hill published in March Lake Champlain, Key to Liberty.

The book is a chronicle of events of this body of water from its geological beginnings through the lake boat era. The results of the wars upon its bosom explain the second part of the title, Key to Liberty, the liberty of a young nation.

Illustrations are in color sections and black and white throughout the text. Uncommon old scenes and present day ones with maps, charts and portraits enliven the pages.

Of Whitehall itself there are the harbor of 1819, Francis Saltus at the dock, the 1814 war fleets in the harbor and a canal scene.

Long a scholar of the history of “his” lake, Mr. Hill has investigated hundreds of primary sources for the material which he has so ably condensed in this volume. A searcher in the same field he touches can recognize these sources and appreciate the great labor of his research. As the forward says, the book represents “a mature effort for which much of his other work was training.” Among his other works are Yankee Kingdom, Side-wheeler Saga and Vermont Album.

Although the work naturally stresses the Vermont side of the lake, the west side is included with the settlement at its head. Although the usual myth of the Skene coffin is included (this version making it Skene’s mother, who died in London before Philip Skene was 11), the strategy of Burgoyne’s invasion from Skenesborough south is explained.

The story of the lake is fascinating. The events are chronicled in a most enlivened manner, easy to read. It is a book to take in large swallows or small nibbles, savoring the taste of events and people while adding to one’s knowledge of the heritage of our country.

The Whitehall Times
November 28, 1974

Adirondack Album
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Those who have an acquaintance with newspaperman Barney Fowler, if only as a reader, will delight in his newly published Adirondack Album. He autographed copies at the Book Barn in Glens Falls 16 November.

The ‘Adirondack Sportsman.’ William M. Roden said in the preface that the book proves Mr. Fowler is a “newspaper columnist and feature writer-photographer on general interest themes.” Mr. Fowler gives as his reasons for the book: “To give a photo-journalism tour into the dramatic past, present and wherever possible a look into the crystal ball of the future of these ancient peaks, valleys and flatlands. It is not an encyclopedic adventure of facts or figures but a montage of memories, many on film, and comments of a newspaperman who has been in love with the area as long as he has roamed it with camera and notebook.”

And this is what Barney has done (not forgetting his missions on pollution and the snowmobile) for the area in the Blue Line and its fringes. The photographs accompany the text with the same biting style used in his newspaper columns and radio talks. There are stories of people. The one of Robert Rogers with his Rangers traversed the area west and north of Whitehall during French and Indian wartimes, is the result of extensive research. The grim tale of Robert Garrow brings back the fear that those of us who lived within a half mile of the police barracks with 200 troopers patrolling the roads had within recent times. Then there is the one of Diane Struble, “the perfect swimming machine who traversed Lake George” which ought not to be forgotten.”

Three “girls”~ have their lives pictured — the first steamboat Vermont, the side-wheeler Ticonderoga and the gundelo Philadelphia. The last one is the one closely

associated with Whitehall history. Built in the shipyard in 1776, she was returned on exhibit by Capt. Alonzo Hagglund who discovered her on the bottom of Valcour Bay in 1934 and raised her. She passed through the village by barge on her way to the Smithsonian Institution, where she is on exhibit. Mr. Fowler did not know of the Whitehall Bicentennial committee's hard fought but unsuccessful attempt to gain the ship for our museum. We were told later that she had already been willed to the Smithsonian.

The figures on the bounty payment on panthers and wolves are impressive. Some people believe the panther is making a comeback in our area and in Vermont. It is certain the timber wolf has. In an area of Westport there are some — no. they are not coyotes or coy dogs. They have been identified by size, markings, observation and the result of trapping. They have made way with calves and flocks of ducks — and how they do howl when the train goes through.

The photograph section on Adirondack wildlife is fascinating. The “playful cute” coons, the hibernating bear, the otter, the deer, the opossum, the bobcat, the porcupine, the rattler, the beaver and the buffalo. Nor did Mr. Fowler forget the birds — the new pest called the monk parakeet — and the fish.

Mr. Fowler says “the future of animal life in the Adirondacks is strictly up to man.” who has destroyed much of it by over-hunting, the so-called doe permit, snowmobile and pollution.

This is the content of the first half of the book.

The Whitehall Times December 5, 1974

Adirondack Album Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The ‘Pig Syndrome’ is the term used by Barney Fowler for the litter and defacement of our natural background. (It is said, however, that pigs out from under man's care are the cleanest animals there are.) New York State spends \$3 million a year just to clean up along its highways. A large share of this is spent in the Adirondack Park. Can you imagine five tons of garbage left annually at the top of Mount Marcy where people go to look for beauty?

King Phillip's Spring near Elizabethtown really had to be closed temporarily because of the garbage dumped around it and polluting the water. Lakes and streams are depositories for litter. Picnic tables placed for the convenience of travelers are smashed or stolen.

Rocks are defaced. One wonders as he sees names in vivid colors splashed on rock faces if Bill still loves Lucy or if Lucy even remembers Bill. And this can't all be blamed on urbanites that come to see the North Country. An educational program is needed and needed now to prevent this heedless destruction. It is almost too late to save some of our beauty.

In another section of the book, Mr. Fowler describes and pictures the frontier forts of the area — restored Fort William Henry of Lake George. Fort Mount Hope and Fort

Ticonderoga in Ticonderoga and the ruins of Fort Frederick and Fort Amherst (which Philip Skene had charge in building) at Crown Point. The seven forts at Fort Ann are not listed since there is no trace of them left today. The same is true of the one at Skenesborough. The existence of which many people are not aware.

There is involved among the pictures one of a British six pounder at Fort Ticonderoga. Whitehall has in its heritage two cannon in Revolutionary use taken from the ships of the first U.S. Navy sunk in the harbor 6 July 1777.

The last section of the book is composed of pictures of the attractions in the Adirondack area. Among them are High Falls Gorge, Storytown, U.S.A., Enchanted Forest, Ausable Chasm, and Adirondack Museum that furnish information or just plain fun.

And what is there for Whitehall, settled in 1759 not 1761? The same old story of the Skene coffin but it accompanies an excellent picture of the grotto built in Skene Manor. English Lieut. Digby, who told the story of the annuity in his diary of 1777, accompanied it with the explanation that it was merely a device of the time to discredit Philip Skene.

The Adirondack Album is an excellent work in illustration and the stringent, pithy style of Barney Fowler. We say to the author, a friend of Whitehall and of the causes that will better our environment, a very well done,”

The Whitehall Times
December 5, 1974

Ruth Dorval Jones
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Would you think there would be any connection in a book review of Madame Helena Paderewski and Whitehall? There really is because the biographical sketch of this beautiful woman devoted to her famous pianist husband and to the cause of an impoverished Poland was created in part by Ruth Dorval Jones.

A forward of the book *My Helenka* by Mary Lee McMillan and Ruth Dorval Jones says: Ruth Dorval Jones, whose skilled writing and discerning use of the material contained in voluminous manuscripts, old letters, notes and research matter has brought *My Helenka* to fruition, was born in Lynbrook, Long Island, N.Y. In early childhood she moved with her family to Bywood, Upper Darby, Pa., where she grew up. Among her most cherished memories are long summer visits with her grandparents in what is still referred to as the Dr. Dorval home” in Whitehall, N.Y. Mrs. Jones is a direct descendant of Stephen Crane, who opened the first paper mill in the United States in Dalton, Mass.”

Mary Lee McMillan was a private secretary to Madame Paderewski when the latter was in New York during the war years. Saving all the material relating to Madame Helena, she started a biographical sketch in 1919 but other writing and life work intervened and it was not until 1973 that the book was published because of the capable assistance of Ruth Dorval Jones, herself a writer of short stories, a three-act play and a

Christmas Cantata. She is also coauthor of another book with Mrs. McMillan, *Make Your Own Merry Christmas*.

Not too long ago Mrs. Jones presented copies of *My Helenka* and *Make Your Own Merry Christmas* to the Historical Society of Whitehall. *My Helenka* is a delight to read while *Make Your Own Merry Christmas* is a textbook “how to” make simple, sophisticated and classic Christmas decorations, beautifully illustrated. The descriptions contain references to long time customs, famous people who used the designs, artists and quotations from old and new pieces of literature. Even if one doesn’t build any of the decorations, he can enjoy the reading.

Mary McMillan had this to say of her co-author: “I wish to express my deepest appreciation to Mrs. W. W. Jones for helping me condense and arrange my *Raleigh Times Garden Christmas* columns over a period of nearly two decades. Working with Ruth has been a source of great pleasure. Without her I doubt that I would ever have condensed the hundreds of columns into this small volume.”

Mrs. Jones is the granddaughter of Estella Malvina Smith Dorval and Dr. Alphonse Cajetau Dorval, whom she named in the gift book *My Helendka*, and daughter of Katharine Lucretia Crane Dorval and Claude Oswald Dorval whom she named in the gift book, *Make Your Own Merry Christmas*.

The Dorval home was on Poultney Street in the Robinson house. Traced back through various ownerships, the papers include the names of Frank and Mildred Griffin, Michael and Irene LaFontaine, Manley Marshall, Frank and Amelia Douglass, Charles and Naomi Benjamin, Estella Dorval and Phineas Spencer.

Mrs. Jones has sent me some reminiscences of her grandfather. I hope to add to them and present them later. We lack newspapers of, the time Dr. Dorval lived in Whitehall.

The Whitehall Times

March 25, 1971

Kathi of Skenesborough Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The dedication of “Kathi of Skenesborough” by May Belle Curtis reads, “This volume is inscribed to Every Loyal Heart Who Loves and Who is Searching for the Truth In History.”

The list of primary sources Miss Curtis consulted is quite long. It included many of Skene’s papers, some of which are now lost; *Documentary History of New York*; *Connecticut Colonial Records*; *Colonial Documents of New York*; journals of Lamb, William Gilliland, Benedict Arnold and Congress; George Clinton papers. Besides these are secondary sources based on other primary sources, as *Humphrey: Life of Israel Putnam*; *Howe: Bigelows of America*; *Bolton*; *Private Soldier under Washington*; *Sabin*; *Loyalists*.

It is Interesting to note how Miss Curtis wove the names of Skenesborough revolutionary soldiers into her story. Philip Skene was colonel in the pre-Revolutionary

Skenesborough Militia and there were annual training days for the men and boys to receive instruction. From these facts she presented a training day festival with representative young recruits Patrick Thomas and Mathew Burroughs under the direction of recruiting officer Thomas Boggs taking their oaths. Sergeant Fuller, struggling to keep his trainees in some form of discipline, had to contend with the merriment of the laughing feminine audience. His “troops” had only wooden guns!

Later In the day Major Andrew Skene (a title not received through battle experience) drilled the two companies who, then engaged in a mock skirmish under the direction of Capt. Jeremiah Burroughs and Capt. Elishama Tozen. Lieut. Daniel Brundige was on hand for observation and comment. All these were real soldiers in the Revolutionary War.

The afternoon was occupied with target practice and games. This was followed by a feast and dancing, through the hospitality of young Andrew, his father Philip being away in, England. Through conversation and incidents, Miss Curtis hinted at the unrest that was permeating the settlement of Skenesborough and made this training day not entirely one without foreboding.

The Whitehall Times

March 18, 1971

Kathi of Skenesborough

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Another book of Whitehall history is the novel of May Belle Curtis, “Kathi of Skenesborough,” published in Glens Falls by the Champlain Publishing company in 1914. The historical background of the plot is valuable for Whitehall’s story. The book was written after Whitehall people were in correspondence with Philip Skene’s great-granddaughter, Jemima Booth, in France. The author had access to primary sources that have since disappeared.

I have tried to find some information about May Belle Curtis. So far the only data I have is that she was a native of Glens Falls and in later life went to California where she died. There are persons in Whitehall, where she used visit, who remember her charm as an individual. When I bought a copy of her book in a used collection, I found one of her letters in it so our records have her autograph.

The Whitehall Times
April 22, 1971

Kathi of Skenesborough
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Miss Curtis in KATHI OF SKENESBOROUGH, depicted real people of the area. Aunt Elizabeth, Philip's sister, was portrayed as a strict disciplinarian. Her portrayal reminds me of the family tradition Colonel Dale Trotter, Philip's great, great, great, grandson, told me when he was here for our Bicentennial. His grandmother had her pastor come each Monday morning and punish each of her children for what they might do wrong during the week. Aunt Elizabeth lived out her life in London on her lodging room business and a government pension derived from her lost lands at Ticonderoga and Philip's influence at Court.

The love story of Phillip's oldest daughter Mary with Revolutionary soldier John Watson is not authenticated but Mary did not marry. She spent the rest of her life in Chelsea, England.

The Whitehall Times
May 6, 1971

Kathi of Skenesborough
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Kathi in KATHI OF SKENESBOROUGH had for a full name Katharine, that of her mother and grandmother. Miss Curtis was able to depict her as a vivacious, luxury loving girl from the manuscript letters that she had. The story of her marriage to Frederick de Piquet, whose lineage was unknown, was told also in these letters. He, a soldier, was sent from Canada to England on government business. After the Revolution he was sent in his line of duty to Germany.

Eliza Gilliland was another young girl in the book. She is pictured as a guest of the Skenes in love with Andrew. Eliza, or Elizabeth, named for her beautiful mother, was the daughter of William Gilliland, a settler in northern New York. He named Bessboro, now Westport, for his daughter, Elizabethtown for his wife and Willsboro for himself. His lands in Westport bordered the 2500 acres that Skene owned there. William Stone's HISTORY OF WASHINGTON COUNTY says there was a close friendship between Gilliland and Skene and refers to a packet of letters between them, but he was unable to locate them.

The Whitehall Times
December 10, 1970

The Whitehaller, Life in Whitehall
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A notice in THE WHITEHALLER 15 August 1849 reads "The unavoidable absence of the author of LIFE IN WHITEHALL during the past week compels us to postpone the publication of the XVIIth chapter until our next issue."

This has reference to David Wilson's book entitled, when first serialized in THE WHITEHALLER, LIFE IN WHITEHALL. This fictionalized tale of Whitehall during the year 1847 was so very popular that the publisher, William S. Southmayd, issued it in a paper covered book form. The only copy I've ever seen of this is in the Port Henry Sherman Free Library local history section.

In 1871 the story was again serialized, this time by William W. Lougee, editor of THE WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWS in volume 1, No. 9, 6 May to No. 28, 23 September 1871. The title now was LIFE IN WHITEHALL, A TALE IN SHIP FEVER TIMES.

The last issue ended "More truth than poetry is comprised in the hasty recital we have given."

In 1903 William B. Inglee and L. D. Tefft, editors of WHITEHALL CHRONICLE, published the material in book form. The cover title is LIFE IN WHITE HALL DURING SHIP FEVER~ TIMES 1847 while the insider title is LIFE IN WHITEHALL, A TALE IN SHIP FEVER TIMES.

Besides the story, this edition' contains valuable history of Whitehall at the turn of the century, with pictures of buildings, scenes, personalities and advertisements. The introduction traces some of the history in 1847.

Many copies of the latter book are still in existence. A copy is needed for the reference section of the Whitehall High school library.

The story is a combination of fact and fiction; real persons, real historical events, and quite some imagination. Some of these will be pointed out later.

The Whitehall Times
December 24, 1970

The Whitehaller, Life in Whitehall
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

LIFE IN SHIP FEVER TIMES is an historical novel laid in Whitehall during 1847. In this year the village population was centered along Williams, Skene, Mountain, and Cliff Streets on the east and a few streets on the west side near the railroad station, besides Saunders and Canal Streets.

The book is laid in only a part of this area as it is mainly the story of the treatment of emigrants who landed here from Canada on their way south. This section was from the slip where the lake steamers landed along Canal Street to the hotel that was located on the site of Saunders Street between the Bank and Montgomery Ward. It included the lumber piles by the slip among which many sick people built small huts from refuse or laid on the ground too ill or too poor to seek better shelter. Division Street is mentioned and Williams Street. The latter was important because the cemetery was located there and many of the weary bodies of the fever victims were buried there. Granville road was the scene of the senseless murder.

The only one of the streets the young people might not recognize is Canal Street that ran from the locks to the southern end of the village until it became Mains street and Broadway.

The Shamrock Hotel was the “den of iniquity” where the sick immigrants were fleeced of their money. The Anglo-Saxon Hotel was located to the south of this, about the site of Pippo’s Hardware Store. Another building mentioned was the old stones store, the stone warehouse built by the government in 1816 to the north of the old silk mill.

The Whitehall Times December 31, 1970

The Whitehaller, Life in Whitehall Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

An historical novelist can take “license” in his stories. While using actual characters and setting, he can also devise fictional plots. David Wilson used all of these in his LIFE IN WHITEHALL: A TALE OF THE SHIP FEVER TIMES. From a fictitious plot in the book, many people, especially those outside Whitehall, think there might still be treasure on Skene Mountain.

In the tale, Mr. Wilson creates Richard Florence, a well educated immigrant fallen into poor times. As he wandered over Skene Mountain, a vague family tradition heard in his childhood became clear. Talking with old Skenesborough inhabitants, he was convinced that his father had married Katharine Skene, Philip Skene’s daughter.

Richard recalled that Philip Skene had buried, before he fled Skenesborough, papers that would prove the ownership of rich lands in England that his wife should have inherited. These would make Richard, her grandson, wealthy.

Another character in the book is Kathleen, a penniless, fever stricken immigrant, who, with her mother, was stranded in Skenesborough. The father and husband, dead at sea, had given his wife a paper that would locate a treasure on Skene Mountain. A copy of an original paper had been given to his father by a fellow soldier, Philip Skene, during the war near Saratoga.

Both of these men had died and Kathleen’s father had finally answered the lure of the treasure hunt. The paper in the tale appears authentic in wording but comparison with some of Skene’s writings shows it is not his. Even his name is spelled incorrectly.

Through a series of coincidences, Richard and Kathleen meet, fall in love, compare notes, and find the treasure. The two live richly In England thereafter.

This is a pretty romance. Actually, Philip Skene's wife came from Ireland where she received her fortune from two uncles. Katharine, their daughter, married Frederick de Piquet and did not live in England. Their only son was named Philip, not Richard.

Philip Skene was not in Skenesborough from 1774 to 1777 and so did not have a chance to bury treasure. His papers were destroyed by himself in 1775 in Philadelphia.

Fact and fancy are interwoven in other incidences in the story which I shall try to unravel.

There is a true story of treasure buried in Lake Champlain near Whitehall. Perhaps someone will be lucky some day and find it!

The Whitehall Times **January 7, 1971**

The Whitehaller, Life in Whitehall **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

A footnote in LIFE IN WHITEHALL says: "At the time this story was written, at the same place where the lower bridge now spans Wood Creek, was a covered bridge, with holes in the sides some two feet square turned "diamond-wise."

A librarian in Plattsburgh State University is gathering information about covered bridges in New York State. There were some covered bridges in Whitehall that we would like to obtain further knowledge of. If anyone can help, I'd like to hear.

There is fun in gathering historical information. One gets used to being called a "hysterical historian," but even funnier is the facetious reply in response to a request for information, "I didn't attend the old Bell school, you know" or "When do you think I was born?" But seriously, many people have remembrance of stories from their grandparents that are so essential to Whitehall's history.

Some other bits of incorrect facts in LIFE IN WHITEHAL concern Philip Skene's stone house. David Wilson had a character say it was constructed more with a view of defense than convenience, a fortified abode. Skene's home was a large 46 x 56 foot house with an ell 20 x 30 feet. At the time of the Revolution it was not entirely finished, the wood for its upstairs floors seasoning. His 120-foot barn was fortified but not until the British came in 1777 and a division of soldiers encamped within it.

Another statement makes Skene from Skenesborough go down the lake to be present at General Burgoyne's exhortation to the Indians; go to Saratoga with his family in company of Burgoyne; after the defeat there go to England with his family; and later die on his way back to Halifax.

Philip Skene was in England when Burgoyne started up the lake. He joined the General at Crown Point. He did not go to Saratoga until the General sent for him. The women of his family were in Canada at this time. He did not die on a ship on the way to Halifax but 33 years later in the northern part of England. Kathy (Katharine, his daughter)

did not join Burgoyne's ladies but was married in Canada where she lived a few years before going to England and on to Germany.

At the time of the book, Lake Champlain transportation was carried on largely by lake steamers. Boats specifically mentioned were the real UNITED STATES and FRANCIS SALTUS. Charles Dickens, the English author who visited the United States at this time rode a lake steamer and Mr. Wilson refers to him as the "big fat Englishman, some Mr. Trollope" and his criticism of our country is paraphrased as "belaboring the Yankee as a rude break-neck race, without the least comeliness of dignity, and utterly regardless of life or limb."

Bridges

**The Whitehall Times
December 5, 1988**

**Whitehall Chronicle in the 1850's
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

South Bay Bridge: A bill of Justin A. Smith was passed in legislature for the construction of a bridge across South Bay. It had taken twenty years and a month to get its passage in March 1856. Citizens had long felt the inconvenience of crossing Lake Champlain, then on through Vermont in order to reach the south of Whitehall, or resorting to the fatiguing and often hazardous trip to Hardscrabble, Horicon, and so on.

With the passage of this bill there was optimism that there would soon be a direct road to Dresden and Westport and north accessible any time during the year when the lake is breaking. People could receive mail once or twice a week and have a direct route to market for cattle and sheep from the north. There would be enough trade to pay for the bridge in three to four years.

**The Whitehall Times
July 9, 1987**

**Town Topics 1824 & 1915
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

In early Whitehall days people wanting to go from what was then the canal road on the west side of Wood Creek to the east side, crossed on a road bridge that ran from a point just north of Division Street across the canal to a point North of Liberty Eatery on Granville Road (Williams Street). It was the route General Lafayette followed from the

steamboat landing on the west side of the harbor to Wiswell Tavern on Williams Street for dinner.

At sometime the crossing became a foot bridge for 28 February 1915. The village trustees voted to build a new bridge that crossed the canal and Wood Creek. The Standard Engineering Company of Toledo, Ohio one of three bidders, won the contest. It had offered some extras and promised the bridge would be completed by 1 May. The work was begun the next day by measurements being taken. The company wanted to take advantage of the ice in Wood Creek to avoid building temporary supports while the work was in progress. Old pictures show an approach at the west side of the bridge as a set of stairs, these the company suggested be eliminated. The iron work was put in position and the frame work came ready to assemble. The cost was \$3,245.

The Whitehall Times October 29, 1987

The General Lafayette Bridge 1824 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Flash backs in newspaper items are a source of earlier history. They came about from the appearance of artifacts in the form of letters, papers, photography from old trunks unopened for decades, attics not visited for generations, or outbuildings. These findings happen even today. Too often they are destroyed as old and dirty.

In 1872 H.W. Buel of trolling spoon family was examining the contents of a cabinet in which he had kept relics from the Revolution. One article was a subscription paper of September 1824. Many public or religious projects were financed by such papers - citizens pledging on paper the money necessary to pay for a desired construction in high or low amounts.

This subscription paper was for the building of a foot bridge that had been swept away in a spring freshet. The earlier bridge stretched across Wood Creek from midway between Division and High Streets on Main Street to a point in front of the Scott building and north of the Liberty Eatery. It was built at the time of General Lafayette's visit to Whitehall, opened for the occasion, and named for him. The story of the generals passing on the bridge in 1825 preceded by an escort of pupils of the Sabbath School carrying baskets of flowers which were strewn on the road over which he passed is well known.

The subscription paper gives first the reason for the paper, in this case, a good and substantial bridge to be erected where the old one now stands easy and convenient of access; second P.J.H. Myers, Dennis Jones and Anderson were engaged to build the bridge and faithfully apply the money to that purpose; third, the subscribers promise to pay to them the money and authorize them to enter contracts and, if necessary, to make advances and to prosecute the work without delay. If any surplus were left, it would be repaid to the subscribers in proportion of their subscription.

The sum of \$889 was obtained from 78 subscribers. The paper was dated Sept. 16, 1824. Subscriptions ranged from one dollar to \$150. The two largest ones were P.J.H.

Myers the man who promoted the businesses at the corner of what is now Main and North Main and W. & D. Jones, another family of industrial development. There were innkeepers- Ann Rock; druggists Andrew Anderson; Emporium editor - Erastus Adams; boat builders - William Hannas. The names were of the early citizens of Whitehall as the village entered the age of canal commerce.

The Whitehall Times
December 3, 1987

1872
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In this year of 1872 a two span iron bridge was built over the lock and down at the lower bridge. Skene must have had some kind of bridge to cross Wood Creek to his mill and foundry. David Wilson told of the covered bridge at this point in 1849. The bridge prior to the iron bridge had to span Wood Creek and the old lock.

The state provided a full labor force. One of the middle piers over the lock was removed to accommodate two spans. The middle rested on the outer edge of the old lock on the west side of the creek. The piers were eight feet wide, giving an increased width to the main bridge.

In 1912 the new lock was constructed when the Champlain Barge canal was made in Wood Creek. Now there is a new lock in 1987, seventy five years later.

The Whitehall Times
November 25, 1982

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

November 1882

M.A. Mack of Fort Edward announced that the new footbridge would be finished and in place on the abutments about the middle of December.

January 1883

The new iron footbridge was completed. The contractor was M.A. Nash of Fort Edward who put up a "model structure."

The Whitehall Times
June 1975

1875

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Friday from 2 a.m. June 4 to Saturday P.M. Capt. Oliver Thomas and Truman Nichols with a gang of men constructed a change bridge across the canal opposite the residence of H.T. Gaylord. A Whipple patent, with a span of 103 feet the longest on the canal; its approach at the west was 50 feet; at the east end, 48 feet, each in its two approaches. No detention on navigation occurred.

The Whitehall Times
January 31, 1974

January 21, 1874, "The New Bridge"
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

January 21. 1874. "The New Bridge. The iron bridge opposite Hall's Hotel is at last finished. It is a fine structure. Its iron arches and rods give it a light appearance, while it is really able to bear an enormous weight. The old barn-like bridge hid from gaze one half of our village, either way, while now the view is almost unobstructed. The work was delayed some, but at last through the exertions of Engineer Cooper, the two eastern spans were put up while Commissioner Barkley and Nash and Barnett did their utmost to give us the new canal bridge adjoining. The approaches on the west side are hardly filled up as they should be yet. The new bridge being so much higher than the old one requires a great deal of filling in. This will be remedied 'soon, we trust. Altogether, there are but few now who regret the change. The substantial new walks laid down by Commissioner Morris are creditable adjuncts to the immediate neighborhood of the new structures.

The accompanying picture, though taken later than 1874 shows this bridge with its two spans over Wood Creek and the bridge over the Champlain canal after its enlargement in 1874. The towpath led directly to the lower bridge from which the mules were driven to it.

On the right is the building that preceded Marion's dress shop, used as a tavern earlier. The village building was then also a firehouse and, the tower contains the bell. Skene Manor's construction was begun in 1874; Liberty Eatery was built in 1873; the bandstand was constructed in 1892. The grist mill is shown together with the silk mill constructed around 1874 with its elevator crossing Williams street overhead.

The Whitehall Times
March 29, 1973

March 1873
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

This month was one for decisions about bridges. In February a notice in the paper by O. Collins, road commissioner, forbade all persons driving faster than a walk across Middle Bridge until it was repaired, as it was considered unsafe. On 4 March the town meeting authorized a new middle bridge not to exceed in cost \$12,000. The bridge was to be an iron truss of Cooper's patent, from Saunders street to Williams, On 17 March a contract was made with Mr. Cooper for \$9,000 to construct a central pier with abutments for an iron bridge of two spans, over and above the present structure and to make the present structure safe until he could begin the new one. At the same 4 March meeting, \$800 was allotted to build a bridge across Wood Creek In front of Harvey Bartholomew's for the new road recently laid there and \$500, to construct and repair roads and bridges.

The Whitehall Times
June 28, 1973

The New Canal Bridge June 1873
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

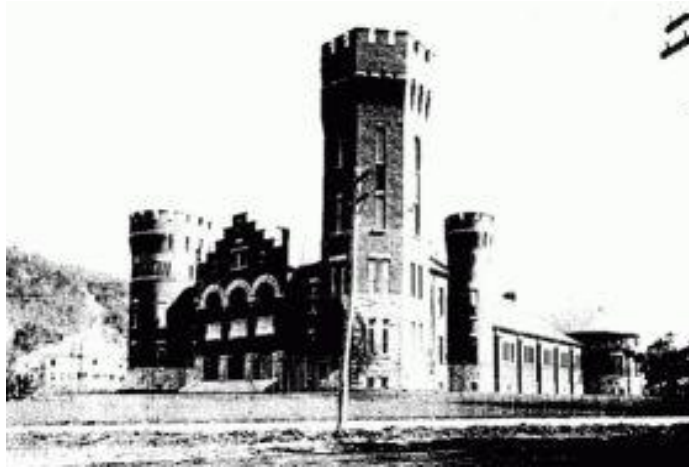
The new abutments are being rapidly put up for the new canal bridge on Boardman Street. The abutment on the west side is nearly finished and is a substantial piece of masonry. The bridge is to be of wood with iron cords and will have a sidewalk separate from the roadway.

The Whitehall Times
November 8, 1973

October 1873
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Yesterday morning the work of removing the middle bridge preparatory to erecting the new iron bridge was commenced. Engineer Cooper informed us that the new bridge would probably be finished in about one month.

Buildings



**The Whitehall Times
November 4, 1976**

The Armory Building 1895 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Plans for a state armory in Whitehall began 21 November, 1895, when Inspector General of the State of New York, Frederick C. McLewee, gave a report of his visit to the Ninth Separate Company 4 June 1895.

At this time the company was in Armory hall in the Anderson building on Canal Street (Main). The room had been restored after a fire in the winter but was not fully adequate for the company.

Adjutant General E. A. McAlpin noted in his report to Governor Morton that Whitehall was in a strategic position on the path from Montreal to New York; that the Ninth Company was in a prosperous condition and deserved better quarters. It was one of the four companies that fully completed its duties on practice marches. He strongly recommended that an urgent request be made to the legislature to make a suitable appropriation for an armory at Whitehall.

The following week the county supervisors met in Whitehall and were entertained by a reception in the company's rooms. During their legislative meeting they unanimously adopted a resolution petitioning the state legislature to make an appropriation for and to authorize the construction of an armory at Whitehall. Senator Brackett and assemblyman-elect W. R. Hobbie were to enter the bills.

The Granville Sentinel in reporting the resolution said:

Whitehall is in what is termed a gulch at the head of Lake Champlain and is the only route that could be used as a military road for the movement of troops between Canada and New York.

In December The Whitehall Times set forth an explanation of the armory bill which asked for \$42,000 from the state for the construction and \$8,000 from the county for the purchase of the site which would include grading filling, excavating, draining and paving the streets and sidewalks, and fencing. The expense for maintenance would be no more than the present, 6.8 per \$1000 valuation. Whitehall would benefit as a great deal of money would be spent in the village.

The bill was introduced 5 February 1896 by Senator Brackett and Assemblyman Hobbie but was not signed by the governor. Two years later Governor Black signed a Whitehall armory bill 20 April 1898 on a Tuesday, on the birthday of the Ninth Separate. It provided \$42,000 for the building proper. The county was to purchase the building lot for \$8,000 which would include the excavating plumbing and grading. Inspector Hoffman and the chief of ordinance would be the committee to select the site. The appropriation would be available for two years. A flag was run up on the armory building and a bulletin was posted at Finnigan's corner so that all citizens would be informed that Whitehall was to have a building to be justly proud of.

The picture shows the two streets of Poultney and Williams, unpaved as we know them, and the absence of buildings near the site. At the left is a hedge that surrounded the red brick home that was taken down later.

The Whitehall Times November 11, 1976

The Armory Exterior Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Directions are given: Go past the armory; turn right (or left) at the armory. There are reminiscences of the sports events in the armory; there were elegant balls in the armory with name bands, not the least of which is the present annual ball of the Whitehall chamber of commerce. There it stands at the corners of Williams Street and Poultney Street, an imposing building. How many can describe its architectural features or tell quickly of what it composed?

On 5 January 1899 The Whitehall Times gave the description of the proposed building, saying, "It will be the most beautiful structure of its kind in the state."

The materials used in the structure are ashlar and brick. Broken ashlar, hewn stone used for facing, extends to the second story in the administration part and to the bottom of the windows in the drill hall. These same materials were used in the Williams Street School (ecole now) which was constructed about the same time as the armory.

The castellated building is set in the center of the chosen lot parallel to Williams street and about 50 feet back. Those people used to figures can picture its triangular shape with front width 108 feet, side length 172 feet and rear width of 90 feet. This leaves 100 feet on each side and 350 feet in the rear for various uses of the company. The building is three stories high in the administration or front portion and one story in the drill hall.

Like a castle it has four towers. One is octagonal, 20 feet on the inside and 77 feet high it is battlemented at the top - having a shallow parapet or wall with open spaces at

regular intervals, in this case used for decoration. The other two towers, 20 feet in diameter, are round in shape with battlemented tops. The southwest one on Williams Street is 55 feet high while the north or Poultney Street one is 40 feet high with a small observation tower. At the northwest back corner is a round bow tower.

The windows are narrow as those of a castle. All are surmounted with a straight lintel except the top ones of the flag tower which are arched. At the top of each is a series of decorations, intended to represent windows that would look down on people or events held below.

The main entrance is imposing with a stairway 32 feet wide leading to it. The doors are each four feet wide so that a company can march through, four abreast. The porch or loggia is 32 feet wide set into the building and supported by four pillars reaching to the third floor. -The tops of the pillars are connected with stone arches. On the second floor is a balcony 32 feet by five feet eight inches.

This is another of Skenesborough's outstanding bits of architectural heritage.

The Whitehall Independent January 27, 1988

The Old Stone Storehouse Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In older pictures of North Williams Street one structure that stood out was the ruins of the Old Stone Store House. This had been a stone building constructed by the government in 1816 as a naval store house for use when Whitehall was a naval depot from 1814 into the twenties.

In the 20's it came into the possession of Asa Eddy and was used as a steamboat office until into the 1870's. When the steamboat companies consolidated at that time and moved to the west side of the harbor this building was used as a tenement, storage, and anything rentable. When it was under government usage the manager was one Samuel Kettletas. If he was related to a Samuel who was one of the signers of Skene's original patent he would have to have been a descendant. These signers were contemporaries of Philip Skene and he died in 1810.

About 1890 T.S. McLachlin started an electric light plant which burned, leaving ruins. In 1905 Captain L. Moch came to Whitehall from Port Douglass and bought the place. He built a store on the old foundation and used it also as a freight shed. Mr. Moch ran the excursion boat Eloise from Whitehall to Ticonderoga but unsuccessfully. His widow continued the business but went bankrupt.

A succession of owners used it as a store downstairs or tenant rentals - Henry G. Fleury, Louis Gandron. Over the years others followed. In late years it became a marina and is now run as the Finch and Chubb, named for two ships in the War of 1812.

The Whitehall Independent
May 9, 1984

Flatiron Building (Continued) May 2, 1984 issue is missing
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Post Office was located in the Flatiron building. H. N. Parke, who became postmaster in 1866, moved there after four years of his service, followed by John F. Clark in 1879; O. A. Manville in 1886; Andrew J. Taft in 1891; Henry Hall in 1895; C. W. Harding in 1899; W. C. Wood in 1905. In 1908 Mr. Wood moved the Post Office into the Griswold Arcade block.

North of the flatiron building were a series of low frame buildings facing both the Canal and Broad Street? This area is illustrated by the canal model in the museum. The Torrent Engine Company and S. P. Whitney's Market were two. The map of 1866 does not give names of the occupants. Earlier histories and atlases evidently included only the names of the persons who subscribed for the volumes. Another occupant was J. P. Blakeslee who owned a store. In the Village records of the Flatiron project, each description was preceded by "south of J. P. Blakeslee's store and west of the canal." Later the building was referred to as the Market Building.

The Village record book gives a few details of the construction of the Flatiron Building. On 31 May 1869 the Village received a quitclaim deed as a gift from the heirs of the Williams Estate of all that property south of J. P. Blakeslee's store and west of the locks. A village committee met with the Canal Board at Albany and on 20 September received a deed from the State for the property, for which the Village agreed to furnish a canal collector's office. At the same time the occupants of the land were given notice to vacate. On 4 October 1869 at a meeting in Anderson Hall, a committee to draw up plans and specifications was appointed. These outstanding citizens were Joseph Wilson, James Doren, D. G. Percival, Joseph Potter, and E. A. Martin. On 1 March 1870 the plans and specifications were accepted.

On 11 April the Trustees resolved that an effort be made to erect a building on the lot south of J. P. Blakeslee's and west of the canal locks according to the plans adopted and a mortgage be made for the construction of the building. At a special meeting 29 June 1870 Alwyn Martin was authorized to excavate and put up foundation walls for the building and gather floor timbers for the ground floor, he to be inspector and be reimbursed for the cost of materials and workmanship. G. A. Hall was requested to perfect the plans and specifications for the completion of the building and to advertise for proposals to be handed to the trustees, including the price for the workmanship and materials to be furnished by the contractors.

This will be continued as I found further details in the Village records that seem interesting.

The Whitehall Independent
May 9, 1984

Flatiron Building (Continued)
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

By 8 August 1870 the foundation wall bills for lumber, sand, and labor were accepted and on 29 August the plans and specifications were adopted. The Village Clerk was authorized to advertise for bids for erecting the building according to them as displayed in James Doren's shop. The bids were closed 12 September. Two weeks later - all bids were rejected. A contract was signed with Alwyn Martin and Henry Burleigh, the cost to be liquidated by them in collection of rents. The mortgage was to be due in five years after the date of completion of the Market Building. Two provisions were that the Village would control the rent of the Post Office and that the canal Commissioners would have rooms in the building.

In the fall of 1875 the trustees gave notice to Martin and Burleigh and on 20 January 1876 the mortgage was abandoned and bonds were issued for the remainder of the cost in charge of the Village Trustees. The Village records do not state the date of the completion of the building but its erection was evidently done in quick time.

One wonders at the optimism of the Village trustees, for all during the erection of the Flatiron Building in 1870, the Village Building at the corner of Williams and Saunders Streets was being built principally for use of the fire department.

The Whitehall Independent
May 16, 1984

1870 - 1892
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The year 1870 marked the start of a building boom of several years in Whitehall, during which period many buildings were raised, including the three "castles" and the Renois building.

During the life of the Flatiron building, other structures stood to the north. A description of a fire in 1892 lists some that were on Broad Street. There were others on the canal side. Mrs. L. A. Billett owned a structure at No. 12 in which she had a millinery store. She lived upstairs. She rented to the Stewart Brothers who had a saloon on the ground floor. A part of the ground floor was used by John Sullivan as a grocery. He also lived upstairs. This is not the John H. Sullivan who built the Pippo building.

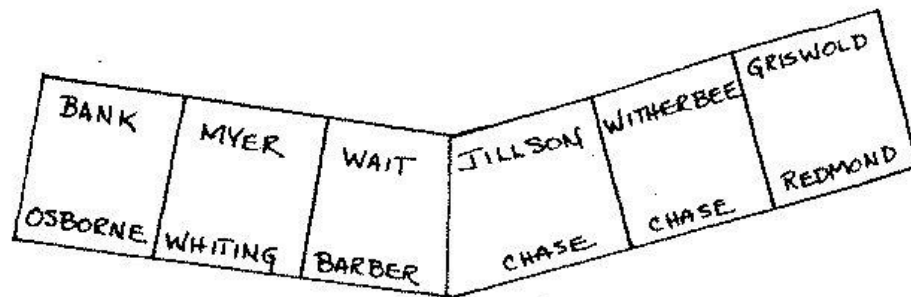
The Parke structure ground floor was given over as a storehouse for merchant R. M. Witherbee and his son-in-law E. Grey. Upstairs lived Joe Beebe, Mrs. Scott, and Mr. Duso.

The Sherman house was a hotel in its upper stories. The Jemery barber shop and a restaurant were on the ground floor. Jemery's was an up-to-date establishment for the time. Its wooden bathtub and footbath used by canal men are in Skenesborough Museum.

Mrs. Douglas and Mrs. Martin had their millinery shop in No. 12, next to the Billett Building. These were all a part of the downtown business section of Whitehall before Lock 12 was built and the canal transferred to Wood Creek.

The Whitehall Times
April 5, 1984

Myers Corners
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



When there are no directories of Whitehall between 1872 and 1892 and no maps of the streets, it is good to have descriptions that earlier newspapers give. From the account of the fire of 1886, reported recently, the early occupants of Canal Street have been made known.

The original Old National Bank was in existence in 1858, but rebuilt circa 1880. It and the Myers building north prevented the Wait fire from getting more water from the hoses.

The Myers building was one of the P.H.H. Myers buildings, c 1856, later known as the Carrington building. It contained Jemery's barbershop and Mrs. E.P. Billett's millinery shop, probably on the first floor. On the second floor were Horace Stowell's insurance office and J. Phil Graulick's store. He advertised as a merchant tailor, but besides the collection of wools for making gentlemen's suits he sold all the garments and accessories that men wore.

H.R. Wait owned the second of the Myers building when it was destroyed in 1886. He had been planning to move out of town and his associate Charles Harding was to take over the store. Later on Harding and Bascom opened a partnership in a new building on the site. H.R. Wait had an office in the J.H. Sullivan's (Pippo's) store for a time before he left town.

Mary Jillson ran a millinery store in the building that she owned. It was built in 1824 on the site of an earlier triangular building of c 1819. Charles Quigley owned the furniture in the saloon run by J.J. Noonan and company. Editor Wilkins told a story of Mr. Quigley's cat, which he had seen perform. It was as big fellow that would fasten his right paw on the door handle of the store and pound with his left paw on the latch.

T.T. Vaughan built a four story building in 1896 as his residence. He lived in the upper stories, and a dry goods store was conducted on the first by Perrit and Bascom.

After his wife died, Mr. Vaughan built a large wooden addition of five stories for bedrooms and ran the Vaughn House. After a series of unsuccessful managers, the hotel was sold to Judge Potter, H.G. Burleigh, and Captain Snyder. It had been known for a time as the Grand Union Hotel. In 1885 the building was sold to Potter and Witherbee. Mr. Witherbee moved his dry goods business into the building from Dayton Block.

H.A. Griswold owned the next building in which he kept a jewelry store. The second story held the office of Dentist Smith. H.A. Griswold was not of the A.H. and S.K. Griswold family. This building was destroyed in the 1912 fire.

The properties of the Myers and Griswold blocks had only smoke and water damage and were covered by insurance, which Mr. Witherbee did not have.

The Whitehall Independent **February 19, 1986**

(No Title)

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Through personal items, history of a building can be traced. At the end of March 1886, Mrs. Alice Fish rented the old J. H. Boyd residence on Church Street at High Street. She kept it as a boarding house which became known later as the Sleight Boarding House where many out- of-town teachers resided.

The Old Bell School House became a residence at the corner of Lamb and Blount. James Delorme moved into the building from Williams Street.

Hiram B. Skeels moved into the Wilsey residence on Williams Street where stood the "old trysting tree". We have a picture of the venerable plant before it was taken down in later years. It was used as a meeting place for young and old.

The Whitehall Times **July 1, 1976**

Tubb Mountain Story **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

The nomenclature of Tubbs Mountain came from one Zebulon Tubbs who bought the farm surrounding it 1 June, 1785 on the confiscation of Skene's property. Zebulon had lived in Skenesborough before this, for he petitioned the New York State Assembly 1 September 1777 for relief from distress due to Burgoyne's invasion. Most landowners had to repurchase their property after the confiscation and sale of Skenesborough.

This mountain of limestone with its caves was acquired by J. 3. Callhan by 1904 for on 21 January of this year he began setting up his stone crushing business and was in operation 10 August of the same year. About four years to the day, 1 August 1908, the Callahan-Squires Broken Stone Company sold the business to D. F. Keenan.

Immediately Mr. Keenan improved conditions so that the plant with 110 men worked it to fullest capacity, 300 yards of crushed stone every hour. Two spans of the D&H railroad accommodated the shipment of 100 carloads a day. The material was used for building stone, concrete roads and streets, and ballast for railroads. Government geologists pronounced it the best stone to be found in the state and said the supply was almost inexhaustible.

But Mr. Keenan had not reckoned with the new Champlain Barge Canal construction completed in 1912. The bridges for the railroad spans over Wood Creek and the canal had to be abolished; as the economic cost of providing another access to the railroad was prohibitive the business had to be sacrificed.

The Whitehall Times **February 26, 1981**

The Wishing Tree **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

The Wishing Tree. I had heard a vague reference to such a tree, and that it stood on Williams Street by Miss Grace Skeels home, 58 Williams street. But questions concerning it didn't bring information about it until I spoke to Mrs. David Brett. She remembered it from the early days of her coming to Whitehall.

Mrs. Brett stated that an after dinner Sunday afternoon entertainment was to walk around the "block." This was before the days of the common auto or radio. Whole families, or lovers, or youth would stroll or frolic, as the case would be, the lengths of Williams and Canal (Broadway) streets and over the two bridges. Most would stop to make a wish at the famous tree.

Recently a clipping describing the tree came to hand. Williams street was long considered the prettiest street in northern New York, let alone Whitehall. This handsome elm was the largest tree in circumference and height along the street and in 1927 judged to be between 150 and 200 years old.

In reach even the smallest children was a zig zag row of nail heads. Who planted them in the tree had long been forgotten but in 1927 a person said she remembered the nail heads being there 65 years ago" which would be 1862. Young people and older ones too thought if the thumb of the right hand was placed on the lower nail and the index finger of the next and so on until the five nails were covered, a wish made at the time would be granted. It was not an uncommon sight to see, daily, boys and girls using the nail heads and making wishes. Perhaps in later years some of the older people realized that what they wished for had come true. Some of the younger ones probably wished the school would burn down.

In 1927 knowledgeable people realized the tree was fast decaying. The village trustees had an examination made. Charles Palmer bored into the tree at the base with an 8 inch bit and reported the tree was rotten at least the length of the bit. The tree had to come down to prevent damage to property or loss of life if it should fall. And thus a sentimental practice that had spanned decades in the lives of people in Whitehall passed into oblivion.

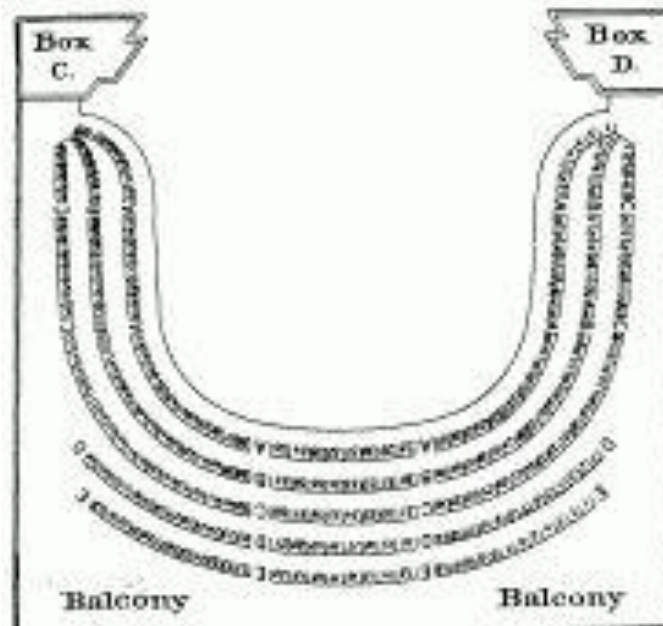
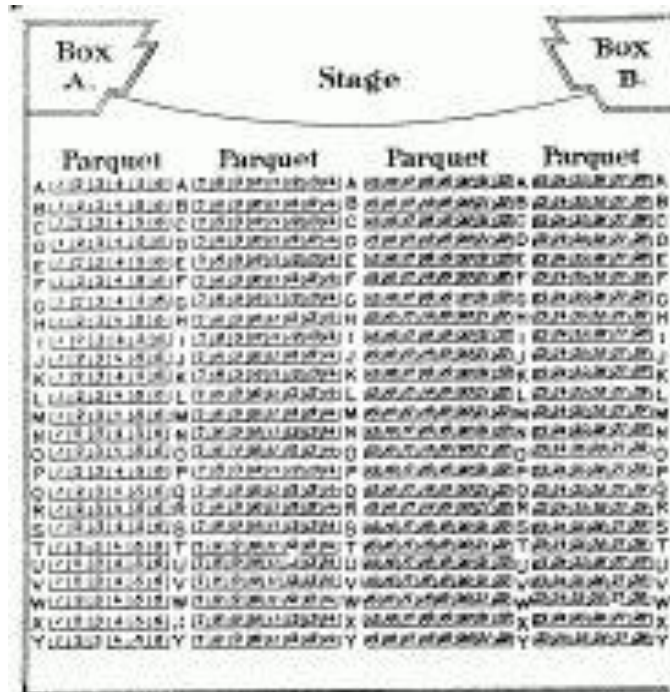
The accompanying post card picture did not survive the flood in Skenesborough Museum as the tree in question was blurred by water damage. Since the picture was made into a post card there must be duplicates in someone's postcard collection that we might have to copy for our files.

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The Whitehall Times
October 9, 1975

Hall's Opera House
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Diagram of Halls Opera House



During the early 1870's, there was a great deal of building in the village. Many of these buildings became our "lost treasures. One such was Hall's Opera House on Williams Street on the site of the Elks home. This was the site of the Phoenix Hotel, the second Phoenix in the village.

E. C. Hall was the owner and A. C. Hopson, Whitehall's "Christopher Wren," the architect and builder. The front of the building was the Phoenix Hotel which was remodeled, raised one story, and a Mansard roof added. A piazza with columns decorated the front. This part was used as a restaurant, office and boarding house. Its register is in the manuscript room of the Albany State Library and was on display in Skenesborough Museum in 1959.

Through the center of the building was an eight foot wide entrance hall leading to the Opera House. This occupied 140 by 60 feet with a 36 feet high auditorium containing a dome 24 feet in diameter, 15 feet above the ceiling. The stage was 24 by 60 feet including the wings. There were four boxes on the high arch frontage.

The drop curtain of the stage was 30 feet wide and 25 feet high. The stage had a complete set of scenery and all paraphernalia necessary for the production of plays. The dress circle of stationary benches, each raised above the other, extended from the sides of the stage. The body of the hall was filled with removable chairs. The building could seat 1,000 persons in the parquet and 500 in the dress circle. The stage was elevated four feet with a gradual rise toward the rear. The vestibule, 20 feet wide and 60 feet long, extended beneath the gallery.

Double doors opened on Phoenix Street so that the Opera House is emptied in five minutes in case of fire. The frescoing and interior adornments were equal to that of any Metropolitan playhouse. The entire cost of the building was \$50,000.

The boarding house and restaurant were opened 28 September by D. C. Gibbs. On 6 October Manager G. E. Wilson produced in Hall's new Opera House in a full dramatic company Shakespeare's Hamlet. Neil Warner, who had acted in all the principal theatres of Europe and America, was the principal; Lillie Lonsdale as Ophelia; and C. H. Clarke, a popular comedian, the Grave Digger. The Whitehall brass band in full uniform played and 12 artists furnished string music.

On 11 October the Philharmonic Society of Boston entertained with first class vocal and instrumental concerts. The popular prices were 35 and 50 cents with reserved seats at 75 cents.

Editor Wilkins suggested that cat-calling, Whistling and hallooing indulged in by the audience should be changed to clapping hands, a sign of ladies and gentlemen.

For a time Whitehall was favored with fine theatrical performances, troupes stopping in Whitehall for a week's engagement on their way to Montreal from New York. The story of the opera ended with a fire to which many of the village buildings succumbed.

The Whitehall Times
July 7, 1983

Hall's Opera House
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Mention was made last week of the Opera House built by Edwin W. Hall. Although the building was described in the 9 October 1975 Day Before Yesterday, details can now be added from a scrapbook preservation of the account of its opening on 8 September 1875. The building was erected during the same period of present Skene Manor, 1874-1875.

Mr. Hall spent \$40,000 on the buildings. Workers were local architect and builder A.C. Hopson; fresco and ornamental painters Mickle & Son; scene painter Morgan and Bowler; and painter of scenery John Meeham, all of Albany. The drop curtain was made by Stanfield of Buffalo, upholstery and carpeting by Whitney & Company of Albany, and the gas fittings by brother George A. Hall.

The arch seemed to rest on four high fluted columns that extended to the floor. The four boxes, seating ten, were carpeted with Axminster carpets. There were blind lambrequins and lace curtains. The auditorium and stage were lighted by two hundred gas jets. The dome had twelve burners against reflectors. The initial entertainment was a beautiful sight with tints of color intermingled with gold.

The first entertainment was Theodore Thomas with a celebrated orchestra, on 28 September 1875. This was followed by a production of Shakespeare's Hamlet, 6 October and Boston's Philharmonic Concert, 11 November.

This building with accompanying Opera Hotel and Restaurant stood on the site of the Present B.P.O.E. building. Its life was short as buildings go. The destruction and further details will be continued.

The house could seat an audience of 1500 with every chair commanding a good view of the stage, 1000 on the main floor and 500 in stationery benches in the balcony. The frescoing was elaborate and elegant in blue, red, pink, lavender, and gold on the ceiling, cornice, balcony, and stage. The ceiling was ornamented by busts of Mozart, Beethoven, and bouquets which looked like real flowers. There were sixteen full sets of scenery and wings to match. The drop curtain, thirty by twenty-five feet, was a river scene in Isahia, Italy, with gondolas and reclining figures. Over the front of the curtain were busts of Shakespeare, Dante, and Molliere and two clusters of musical instruments.

The Whitehall Times
July 14, 1983

Destruction of the Grand Opera House
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

For eleven years Whitehall citizens attended the Grand Opera House on Williams Street to see and hear outstanding artists in drama, concerts, lectures, and oratorical

programs. But on Monday, March 1, 1886 disaster struck and the beautiful building was destroyed by fire, one of the great disastrous fires in Whitehall. The last entertainment in the house was the Veteran's Ball. Many engagements had been booked.

At 2:45 a.m. the house was in flames, within fifteen minutes of the fire alarm the roof fell in and with only one brick thickness the side walls soon collapsed. Ten streams of water were directed upon it under Chief Engineer Gaylord and Assistant Chief Vannier's directions, but the fire had gotten between the floor and ceiling of the three stories. All this happened during a frigid northern storm and the water froze wherever it fell outside the fire.

Neighboring buildings were in danger but the supply of water from the new water works and the valiant work of the firemen saved them. The A.C. Hopsons and the

C.J. Burdetts constantly served hot coffee to the men.

Edwin W. Hall's loss, of course, was the greatest. Nearby houses were endangered. A.C. Hopson, the architect across the alley, Ernest Ames, Hinman Skeels, Mrs. Thomas, C.J. Burdette, Mrs. Bary, and John Ryan made ready to evacuate. John Knight's house was almost entirely destroyed. Charles H. Lotraces rowboat shop behind the Opera House, John Ryan's ice house, and Mrs. Gaylord's barn were destroyed.

Mr. Hall was called from Truthville. Unable to have insurance, Mr. Hall stated that he probably would rebuild the hotel for which Whitehall had need. The building of the Opera House was financially impossible, however because his plans were for a larger and more extensive hotel.

There is in existence a register of the Hall Opera House Hotel, part of which someone used as a scrapbook! Its entries are of interest, listing names of persons who stopped overnight or for a meal or two. Travel was not as easy even in the late 80's from town to town so there are many entries from Rutland, Glens Falls, and other nearby villages.

The Whitehall Independent February 5, 1986

The Opera House Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

On the site of the present Elks Club stood the famed Opera House from 28 September 1875 to 1 March 1886. It was destroyed about two weeks later than the big Wait and Witherbee fire at the corner called Myers. Its destruction at 2:45 AM has been reported before but a description of its interior shows that the theatre was fabulous. E. W. Hall, one of Whitehall's business men who had built the Hall Mansion on West Mountain, constructed the building at a cost of \$40,000.

The Opera House seated 1500 people on the main floor with 500 in the balcony. Every seat commanded a good view of the full stage. The frescoing was elaborate. Garnet, blue, red, pink, lavender, and gold blended about the ceiling, cornice, balcony and stage. There was a dome in the center. The ceiling was ornamented by busts of

Mozart and Beethoven while bouquets in the ceiling looked extremely natural. Four eagles and shields surrounded the ceiling. The stage was elegant. There were sixteen full sets of scenery with wings to match. Machinery was so perfect that any play could be performed with scenic and stage effects as well as any in the Metropolitan Theatre.

The deep curtain was a scene at Ischis, Italy. Gondolas and boats skimmed the water while their occupants were pictured reclining in lazy but comfortable indolence. In front of the curtain were busts of Shakespeare, Moliere, and Dante. - Beside these were two clusters of musical instruments.

The arch was elegant and seemed to rest on four high fluted columns extending to the floor of the stage. Four private boxes were behind the lambrequins and lace curtains. The boxes were carpeted with Axminster and .mosquet carpets. Each box could hold ten people.

The lighting was adequate. The auditorium and stage required 200 gas jets. In the dome there were twelve burners against a reflector that gave a bright, soft light over the audience below. There were 25 jets on the walls, ten at the sides of the stage, 24 foot-lights, and 72 over the top of the stage between the drapes, besides a number at the side wings.

The Opera House presented an appearance of an enchanted bower. Beautiful tints intermingled with gold, resplendently lighted, presented a panorama such as was not often seen in villages.

No wonder that theatre troops were willing to stop off on their way from New York to Montreal to play in such an elegant playhouse.

The Whitehall Times October 30 1975

Anderson Hall September – October 1975 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Anderson Hall when finished will be one of the handsomest public buildings in this locality. The front looks very handsome with its coat of black and gold. (This is the addition of the hall at the top of the building).

The Whitehall Times April 22, 1976

The Hall House Fire 100 Years Ago Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Fires often made headlines in the 19th century in Whitehall. One big one was the destruction of the Hall House on a Sunday evening, March, 1876, at 8 p.m.

- The Hall House stood on _ the site of the present four buildings in the Main Street Historic District, Pippo's, Roselli's, Aiken's, and the old Burns news room. Attached to

the Hall House on the north was the present National Bank, then known as the Merchants National Bank built in 1873. Rooms of the hotel were at the back of the bank.

People poured out of evening worship when they heard the fire alarm. The conflagration started in a second story bedroom on Saunders Street at the back of the bank building. The flames soon spread to the bedrooms above on the third floor and then down the hallway to the French roof of the main building. The slate of the Mansard roof fell into the street and the rest of the building was soon ablaze. The walls and the piazza presented a glittering sight as the great quantities of water poured on the flames froze into huge icicles.

None was injured in the fire and much personal property was saved by people dashing into the building to bring it out. The boarders of the hotel were transferred to the Hall Hotel on Williams street, the Opera House Hotel that is often confused with the Hall House. The next evening the fire burst forth again in the cellar as it had burned down to the bottle collection stored there.

The history of this 40-year old building was told in the Whitehall Times and again in the introduction of the Life In Whitehall in Ship Fever Times.

Hall's House was built in 1836 on the site of the Whitehall House which had burned in 1835. John Parke, its proprietor, called it the Anglo Saxon. In 1839 he leased it to Capt. Arch A. Ferris of Plattsburgh. He was succeeded by John Wood from Troy for two years. In 1843 Whitehall Joseph Allen leased it for five years. Samuel Jillson owned it for a year and sold it in 1849 to brothers E.K. and A. Scovil who made extensive alterations and opened it as the United States. In 1851 it was run by a Mr. Potter, followed by John C. Parke who changed its name to the Parke House. He was followed by George Phetaplace from Sandy Hill and in 1860 by J.C. Marsden. In 1861 Joseph Allen remodeled the inside and leased it but finally sold his lease to J. W. Ingalls and Elisha Scott in 1865. Ingalls and Scott purchased the property from John H.H. Parke. Two years later it became the Knight House. Charley Knight sold to John W. Smith of Massachusetts who after six months sold it to the Hall brothers. It was opened as the Hall House. In 1873 Mr. H. added a third story and the French roof.

Under the last owner the business was thriving and the building has increased value. Mr. Hall stated his intention to rebuild as soon as the insurance business was attended to but his plan did not materialize. John Sullivan was happy to find good location to build his business "uptown."

The Whitehall Times September 8, 1983

A Charming Residence Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Surrounding the village of Whitehall have been some beautiful residences on the hills—the two Hall mansions, the two Potter mansions, the Cooke residence. All but Skene Manor have been destroyed. In an account of a newspaper of 1883 another vanished building was described that many of Whitehall will remember.

In that year, the residence T.S. McLachlin was offered for rent as the owner was going to Paoli, Kansas to enter a flouring business with his brother, expecting to return at some future time. The account gave a description of the place.

‘The Rookery’, as it was called, had at one time been the rectory of Rev. Charles Hill of the Presbyterian Church. It was located at the end of Rock Avenue overlooking one of the lovely panoramas of which Whitehall has many. In the rear of this unique architectural design was a forest of Norway pines, offering a cool retreat in summer. The grounds of three and a half acres contained a large garden, 100 fruit trees, and many varieties of grape vines. There was a large barn and a work house and the dwelling itself had a furnace with hot and cold water in every room.

One of the best springs in the locality supplied the place with excellent water. The writer believed a family renting The Rookery need not go to the Adirondacks for pure air and charming scenery. The son of the family had fifty hives of bees which were also offered for sale. The hives were producing this season 2,000 pounds of honey. The rent would be cheap and the bees a bargain, although the two could be had separately.

Later history of the place obtained from Thomas Hebert who knew the area well as he tended the property for Miss McLachlin. One wonders if the spring was the origin of Potash Brook that runs from that locality down to Chapin Alley. Thomas has tried to trace its origin but the beginning has been obliterated with a necessary overflow of a water main. The lot now is smaller, a little over an acre. The brook is crossed by a bridge that leads to the Saladin Home.

Miss McLachlin left the place to her two nieces who lived in it for a time before they left Whitehall. Afterwards it was the home of Albert St. Dennis who had the occupation of chauffeur to Mr. Harrigan, a department store operator of the 1920’s. Henry Martin made it his home when he was in the Sullivan hardware store. It was finally sold for taxes, and the sad fate of a beautiful place was a target for the fire company’s training operation.

The Whitehall Independent **May 30, 1984**

The Old Stone House **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

In Whitehall pictures circa 1900 the ruins of the Old Stone Store House are prominent. It stood north of the Silk Mill area. Some of its history is traced, going back to the War of 1812.

At that time Whitehall was an army depot for militia men, military equipment, and stores. In our file is a receipt to Capt. Jeheil Dayton for thirty nine stands of arms and equipment, one bayonet excepted, and one drum belonging to the State of New York, promising to deliver it to Dayton and signed by Lieutenant Colonel Squire Bartholomew and 2nd Lieutenant Gideon Taft. It was endorsed in 1824 by Dayton.

At that time, the old French and Indian and Revolutionary blockhouse on the hill west of Church Street (Broadway) was equipped and garrisoned for defense, and new

barracks erected. On Taft's Island entrenchments were built (but never used), ammunitions magazines constructed, and a fort built.

But the Battle of Plattsburgh 11 September 1814 changed the area from an army to a navy depot. Thomas Mac Donough brought some of the American ships and English prizes and lined them up along the shore of the island to prevent possible incursion from the north. The navy kept these ships in commission for many years. Stillman in his travel accounts mentioned seeing the sailors looking out the "windows." The fleet was in charge of Lieutenant Charles Budd and Officer Leonard, both of whom were held in high respect of the villagers.

In 1816 the Stone Store House was built on the east side of the harbor. It had four stories with seven windows each, with two on the ends of the building. It was first used in 1817, under the direction of Captain Samuel Kettletas, the father of Mrs. A. H. Griswold, a prominent person in the village. He had been honored for bravery at the Battle of Plattsburgh and given a sword.

By 1825 the ships in storage were dismantled and set permanently along the shore of East Bay. The naval station in Whitehall was abandoned. The Store House now had other uses. It became a steamboat landing. There were no wharves along the harbor at that time and goods were either floated or lightered to shore. Then it either was or soon became a part of the W. W. Cooke estate. By 1894 it had become the electric light station with the engine room in an annex.

On 21 January 1894, fire was discovered in the engine room. Regulations prevented the watchmen in the Whitehall Lumber Company and the Silk Mill from sounding the fire alarm. Messrs. McLachlin from Rock Avenue and Saunders Street saw the flames and hurried downtown. A hose cart was taken from the village building but the fire hydrant at the end of the lower bridge was frozen, because it had not been laid deep enough. By the time it was fastened to one on Broad Street, it was too late. The fire had destroyed the dynamo and the switch board. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Orville, tenants in the upper stories, escaped in their nightclothes.

And so an old important landmark lay in ruins for many years.

Editor's note: Does anyone know what regulations might have prevented the watchmen from the Lumber Company and the Silk Mill from sounding the Alarm? The reason seems to be lost in history. Tell us about it!

The Whitehall Times **February 7, 1980**

Iron Fences **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

One of the last decorative iron fences in the town has been removed and replaced with woven wire. This new woven wire fence around Boardman Cemetery, opened in 1853, will provide protection from destruction of a place that should be held in respect.

The center gate posts and some of the corner posts were obtained by Skenesborough Museum where a plan is under way to erect them for viewing.

As early as 1855 cast iron companies advertised 'iron railing of every description for cemeteries, public and private buildings, also verandahs, fountains, settees, chairs, lions~ dogs, hitching I posts and other ornamental iron work of a decorative nature all executed with the express view of pleasing the taste while they combine all the requisites of beauty and substantial construction."

The fence with posts and gates around the East Whitehall Methodist church, I imagine, is the last of the original fences. Black iron fences replaced white wooden ones along the streets of Whitehall, as evidenced in the post cards and picture albums of the place. Few of them are of the intricate design that some places attained but they enclosed yards of large or small areas, often with fountains or urns generally within their boundaries.

An iron fence stretched from the Isaac C. Griswold library to Williams Street School. Across the street one enclosed the Chase building when it had the beautiful columns. At the Poultney Street corner a fence surrounded the property of the Davis brick house along the Poultney and Williams Street sides. Across the Street the new armory had a rather high iron fence. What fences have been replaced has been of the woven wire type.

On the former Church Street the tunnel was sided with a utilitarian iron fence to keep the track free. Across the Street to the West was Trinity Church with the first rectory fully enclosed in iron. Farther north on this street was the home of A.H. Griswold, set back from the street with a garden in which was an iron fountain. This too was enclosed with an iron fence as was the Alwyn Martin mansion to the north opposite Division Street.

Notre Dame, erected in 1894, had its attractive boundary. Along the east side of the old Champlain Canal an iron fence was been on the roof.

There were blacksmiths in Whitehall but this iron fencing doubtless did not come from their hands. Newspapers did not advertise such an industry in the village. Philip Skene did have four bloomeries in Skenesborough in which iron was produced from the iron ore that his workmen brought from the Cheever Mines. Unfortunately no record has yet been found that gives any details of this industry, though I have had inquiries from people who believe that the products from here were great. There is only the record that the great boom put across the lake at Ticonderoga to stop Burgoyne was forged in Skenesborough and that parts of it were taken to help in the making of the chain across the Hudson River, placed evidently for protection of people from falling into the space between it and Wood Creek. Its picture looks quite different from the iron pipe one sees now in the parking lot and Riverside Park. The iron flower pots in Riverside Park came from the Nash home on Broadway, which had its share of iron fences between the small lawns and the sidewalk.

Side streets also sported iron fences. The James Sullivan house on School Street was enclosed and the May home on West Street had one running along its front.

It would seem that the "castles" that were built in Whitehall would have had these iron decorations but their pictures do not seem to show any. In the museum is, however, a remnant of an iron decoration that came from Meyer's Castle.

The Whitehall Times
March 19, 1987

Whitehall in 1887
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

On page 22 in the pictorial history DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY is a picture of the second Episcopal Church 1842 which became the Notre Dame des Victories in 1865. Beside the church is shown a corner of a brick building which stood on the south corner of Church and Saunders Streets. Long gone now but in April 1887 it was being repaired. It was built in 1815 by Jeremiah Adams, a notable man of Whitehall and father of J. Pliny Adams of the War of 1812 fame. It was given to Mr. Adams daughter, the wife of John Boyd. Subsequently it was owned by Judge E.D. Culver who conducted in it a school for boys of whom he was the teacher. Later it was used by doctors McLoud, Green and Hall and then it became a tenant house. In 1886 when the tunnel was repaired the house became untenable by the cave-in of the tunnel sites. It was abandoned by the railroad but then was purchased by Father Ethier who rebuilt it. An addition was placed on the Saunders Street side in 1887. Mr. Lacasse, the builder, did the reconstruction work.

The Whitehall Times
July 1, 1976

Meyer's Castle, Built in 1874
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

MEYERS CASTLE. Turreted stone structure, built on south side of upper School Street by George Hall in 1874, derived its popular name from second owner, Aubrey Meyers.

In a five year period 1870 to 1875 in Whitehall, architect and builder A P. Hopson produced six great buildings. half of which are now lost treasures of architecture These were the A. H. Griswold mansion in 1870 the Cook mansion, Our Lady of Angels rectory 1872, Edwin Hall mansion 1873, George Hall mansion 1874, and Judge Potter's mansion 1874-75.

One of these imposing dwellings was called Meyer s Castle, not from the man who built it but from a later occupant.

On the south side of South Bay Street (School) George A. Hall erected a stone castle opposite the mansion of his brother Edwin Hall on West Mountain. Deemed a marvel of its time it was thoroughly described in The Whitehall Times, room by room.

Made of stone it had a large round tower with battlements and casements on a high rock that dominated the village. The main part had two stories but the front contained one more story that had but one room. The doors were of black walnut and the tile floors were laid in blue gray and garnet mosaic. The reception hall had an adjoining large parlor, 24 by 16 feet. The library was octagonal in shape and broad piazzas, opened from it. Spacious closets, fireplace mantels, hot and cold water supplies were especially noted.

The cellar had a large cistern and force pump to carry the water upstairs. The large dining room had many linen and china closets.

The tower contained a winding stairway with an octagonal bed room. The woods throughout the building were black walnut, ash and oak. Walls were finished in a hard white surface ornamented with elegant cornices and center pieces relieved by pastel colored baseboards. The grounds were landscaped in a “romantic” style and there was a greenhouse.

When Frederick Dale brought the silk mill to Whitehall, he purchased this castle to live in. His successor, Aubrey Meyers, made it his home for a period of time. When his family left Whitehall for interests elsewhere, the building stood idle and gradually deteriorated with many suggestions from various citizens that it should not be allowed to be destroyed. But time took its course and when the Whitehall Central School took possession, the building was deemed too dangerous to stand and was demolished. The owner now is Fred Carao, who owns the land and has yet the flowering trees that helped to make a showplace of this castle.”

Note: Our Lady of Angels Rectory was razed in 2002 by direction of the Albany Diocese.

The Whitehall Times **January 28, 1971**

“Life in Whitehall” **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Other real places were cited in LIFE IN WHITEHALL. One was the view of the meadows to the south. Miss Maude Adams wrote that a woman who lived in the Ackley Tavern, later the Adams home, could look north across the open land along Canal Street. If she saw company coming, she would have plenty of time to change her apron.

The Jillson Slaughter house mentioned evidently was not placed near the tannery. The slaughter according to the book was near the hospital. Early historians have placed this on West Street near the Red Row, south of Saunders Street.

Jillson’s tannery was on land behind the Williams Street School. When the property for that institution was purchased, the deed included this tannery land. A picture of it shows buildings, a fenced-in section, and a view across empty land looking toward West Mountain and Our Lady of Angels’ spire.

The late Mrs. Harriet Bartholomew told me that as a child she, with others, enjoyed the forbidden pleasure of running around the edge of the big vat.

Entertaining and appalling, this picture of Whitehall in 1847 is a sordid one. It represents only a small section of Whitehall life dealing with only a small minority of Whitehall citizens. Sad to say, however, it is a picture that readers remember and repeat as typical of the village just as they relate the fictitious tale of Mrs. Skene’s coffin.

Businesses

The Whitehall Times

May 14, 1987

Town Topics 1914-1915

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Two lunch carts moved from the west side of the village park. Dick Aiken located the Chapin Driveway and Dawson, opposite the World in Motion on Saunders Street.

The “Swirl in Motion” of the commercial Hotel was a restaurant which served famous suppers.

Jesse E. Walker established a mileage and auto business at No. 1 Church Street. It will be remembered by many that Mr. Walker used to return to Whitehall at least once a year after his move to Massachusetts to wander over his old haunts in Whitehall.

Ryan’s shipyard was busy in 1914. Two canal boats were launched in the week of May 15 and another was being built.

The Whitehall Times

September 15, 1988

George Neddo and Boating

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

From the story of George Neddo we learn something of Whitehall’s boating industry.

George was born 26 April 1826. He was the son of Peter and Mary Belele, natives of France. He was a Papineau soldier and fled Canada via Rouses Point in 1840 to Whitehall when George was four.

Peter purchased the boatyard of John O’Reilly at the Elbow. George learned the ship carpenter’s trade in this boatyard. When his father died in 1856 George worked in the boatyard of Morgan Evensen at Rondout. He then was employed in the Northern Transportation Company under Oliver Bascom.

After serving four years in the Civil War, Company A, Vermont Infantry, he returned to Whitehall in 1865 with the rank of Captain and began boatbuilding at the Elbow Yard of Oliver Neddo, his half- brother. He soon became sole owner and in 1911

sold the business to the Lake Champlain Transportation Company. During this period he built 160 canal boats, more than any other builder.

Before the railroad was extended north from Whitehall, lake and canal traffic was heavy. Sailing barges were on the lake. Large steamboats were in service but the barges were under sail instead of being towed by steam tugs. All the boats were made of wood. The Neddo Yard hired from twelve to twenty-five workmen who were paid in orders for supplies at certain stores. W.W. Cooke, who conducted a planing mill, was the first to pay the men in cash. The Elbow yard handled the large steamers and built and repaired the large lake barges, two to three hundred of these being in service besides the many canal boats.

George was in other businesses relating to the boat industry. He was adjusted for all insurance companies north of Troy for about forty years. He raised wrecked boats, delighting in raising those that had been deemed impossible. One was in the St. Lawrence in thirty feet of water and laden with molding clay. On Government contract he built lighthouse and piers along the lake. He served as superintendent of Section No.3, Champlain Canal for sixteen years under Governor Morton, beginning in 1895 and extending to the construction of the Champlain Barge Canal.

In 1865 George married Mary Brown and had one daughter Kate. In 1868 he married Delia Archambault who died in 1913. There were eleven more children. George died at the North Saunders home near the Elbow in May 1916 and 80 years. He owned a large tract of land between the lake and South Bay. He had purchased large farms of A. H. Griswold and Mr. Tupper.

The Whitehall Times

October 2, 1975

Record Books 1876 - 1882

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

They may be dusty, dirty, torn, with leather covers crumbling, but old account books are valuable for local history. They tell stories of businesses, individuals and people who lived in a place at a certain time.

Recently Floyd Mason saved three day books of a hardware store in Whitehall. The owner's name was not given in the books but the dates. 1876-1882 show that the store could have been Hall & Kittredge. T. S. MacLachlin. or Wood & Hotchkiss. The last one moved from the corner of Saunders and Canal Streets to the corner of Division and Canal Streets in this period.

Entries are interesting. You wonder why A. C. Hopson, an architect and builder bought a thimble, until you discover H. I. Gaylord bought a chimney thimble.

Lighting and heating details are told. Mrs. Jane Gilbert paid \$1 to have her stove cleaned, blacked and set up.

J. H. Manville paid 50 cents to have his furnace and pipe cleaned. A globe chimney for a lamp cost 50 cents while a plain one cost 10 cents. A whale hand lamp cost 60 cents while eight lamp wicks were 25 cents.

You wonder why the Union school bought so many door locks. You find names of companies not otherwise common in local accounts — McLaughlin & Higgins, Baltimore and Clemons. You find that few accounts are entered in women's names. Did men do all the shopping?

This past week Charles Rawitz saved 11 account books that cover periods from 1828 to 1886, all books of I. C. Griswold one of the many Griswold merchants who conducted business in Whitehall and owned much property.

The day books do the same as the hardware store books but there are additional kinds. A 'flour book' details the names of individuals who bought barrels or half barrels of flour, the price slowly rising from \$4.75 in January 1852 to \$10 by the latter half of 1854.

The Whitehall Mill Company "toll book" gives the grist and toll for 1884-85. Again it is accounts of individuals with a baffling entry of "Stranger" quite often. A second section summarizes the kinds of grain — buckwheat, rye, barley, corn, wheat, provender.

Mr. Griswold's "rent book" of 1883-85 shows the extent of his property dealings. Rent being anywhere from \$2 to \$32, depending on the year and kind of business. Some accounts end with "Moved Out." The ledger shows double entry with the cross references looking like code and all accounts carefully ruled. This book had a bonus in that advertising cards of merchants in Albany, Troy and New York were inserted.

The 1828 book gives the familiar names of Melancton Wheeler, B. L. Dibble, S. T. Jillson; the 1852, Lemma Bartholomew, Robert Coleman, L. W. Falkenbury; the 1884 Frank Fish, Ed. Loomis, J. J. Pangmon; the 1844. William Merriam, John Sisco, Served Fish.

Old account books are valuable especially when much of a town's history has been lost by fire.

The Whitehall Times **January 29, 1987**

Industry in Whitehall in 1887 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

The forests of Whitehall were an important resource in the industries of the village in furnishing the ingredient for wooden products. One such industry was that of A.S. Polley in 1887. By January of that year he was busily getting his manufacture of coiled barrel hoops that were used for sugar and flour barrels. His drawings of three machines were being converted into construction by G.C. Skinners, Chicago. It consisted of a hoop sawyer four by four and a half feet with two sets of saws, a hoop pointer lapper, and a planer combined three by four and one-half feet, and a hoop coiler three by five feet; total weight 2,000 pounds.

Logs were first sawed into planks of the desired thickness for hoops and then run through the sawing machine which cut two hoops at a time or 1,000 per hour. The next step was to run them through machine number two which pointed laps and planed the

hoops to a finish. The hoops were then put into a steam chest and after being softened were placed in the coiling machine, each coil containing ten hoops. After the cooler process the hoops were stacked in a drying room ready for the drying process. The coils were placed five to a bunch ready for shipping.

The machines were placed in Mr. Polley's saw mill at Canal and Board Street to be run in connection with his shingle machine and give employment to ten or twelve men. The mill was close to the railroad and the canal for convenient transportation.

Mr. Polley had resource to a large tract of timber on West Mountain (he lived on Comstock Road). It had a good supply of elm, ash, and black oak. During two months his men had been chopping and drawing logs to his mill to be used for the hoops.

The Whitehall Times December 16, 1982

Christmas Advertising in 1882 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In the late 1800's, The Whitehall Times printed a running account of the wares of its advertisements that tells much of the business life of the community at that time. The number of stores can be realized by remembering that the canal and the railroad were active in commercial life of the North Country. This year of 1882 is portrayed by giving the kinds of goods or services on hand. Merchants moved their places of business quite frequently and the locations in one period of time are not the same as in another one is used to.

The columns were headed Holiday Goods. "The reputation of our merchants for selling goods cheap has extended for many miles in all directions. People come from long distances to purchase family supplies and benefit from the extraordinary bargains offered. A glance at the columns will show who the live merchants are."

CLOTHING: Among the leading merchants, the clothing dealers are an honor to our town. Look at the large assortment of overcoats, suits, single garments and gents furnishing at H.R. Wait's cheap cash store (Barber's Clothier); Joseph Carmel's Reliable (spelled with a C or a K in Griswold's Iron Front); R.M. Witherbee's (this year in the Dayton block north of High Street); I. Englander's popular establishment (Griswold's Iron Front). Then if you wish a suit or any garment made to order, visit H.R. Wait; J. Phil Graulich (north of Army and Navy Store); I. Englander; and Ed Pratt at Devlin and Co. of New York City(?)

DRY GOODS: In the dry goods trade Whitehall merchants are fully up to the times in style, quality and assortment. Elegant fabrics for ladies and children's wear, trimmings, ladies' and gents' furnishing goods, cloaks and wraps of all kinds are to be found at S. K. Griswold (north of Library), 8 and 10 Williams Street); R.A. Chapin (at Chapin's Alley); F.H. Gaylord (corner of Clinton Avenue, north); F.F. Follett (Broad Street north of Chase's).

DRUGS & MEDICINES: This village has four excellent drug stores. Each of these establishments is kept by a wide awake and progressive man. J.R. Broughton (A.H.

Griswold store opposite Foot Bridge); L. Corbett (Arcade building south of Iron Front); O.A. Manville (Chase's store) and P. W. Barry (on Broad Street).

FURNITURE: What is nicer than a handsome piece of furniture for a holiday gift? The new store of Wood and Hotchkiss (corner of Main and Saunders); old Martin Store (Broad Street).

GROCERIES: Boatmen who traverse the canals of the Empire State have always said that groceries and all kinds of boat supplies can be purchased here cheaper than at any other port. So true is this that even Canada boatmen always make calculations to lay in a supply in this place S.K. Griswold; J.H. Sullivan (Pippo's) Wheeler & Wilcox (Red Front); J.R. Broughton & Son; R.M. Witherbee; P.W. Barry.

SHOES, CAPS, BOOTS and SHOES: Everyone needs shoes. The establishments here are second to none to be found in the cities: J.C. Earl (Anderson Hall Building); H.W. Wait; R.M. Witherbee; Joseph Karmel; Miller & Snyder (Anderson Hall Building).

JEWELRY: C.B. Pike has an assortment that cannot be surpassed, if equaled by an establishment this side of the cities. (On Broad Street around the corner from Barber's).

HARDWARE, CROCKERY, ETC.: Very few towns the size of Whitehall can boast of two such fine complete hardware stores. The display of elegant china and stoneware is one of the features of Wood and Hotchkiss and Walter D. Travis (Canal, now Main).

To be continued.

The Whitehall Times **April 16, 1981**

April 1881 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Williamson's Ship Yard

One of the most extensive and best boat builders in this locality is James Williamson whose yard is situated near the railroad depot just north of the track that runs to Rutland.

He has been engaged in the work for the past 25 years (1856-1881) and has built up a reputation that has followed his handiwork wherever the boats of this section float. During the past winter he has employed 17 men constantly, the payroll being \$150 a week. Not a day but the noise of hammer and axe has been heard between morning and evening.

Now on the stocks are four first class boats, all finished excepting a last coat of paint. Three have been built for Cook, Mahan and Reed (all forwarders of Whitehall) and are open deck boats for carrying lumber and coal. The fourth is not positively sold.

Besides this, he has a first class boat under way to be finished May 1 for Capt. Reed and a sixth one to be finished June 1. During the past year he has turned out eight large boats which is more than any other yard in Northern New York has set afloat in this time. He builds for cash only and each boat is worth \$2800 to \$3000. The interest is good for our place.

McClellan and Jackson have started the shirt making business in the Adams block on Williams Street. The firm seems to be composed of five men. (Shirt making seems to be a continuing business in Whitehall.)

Two New Uncommon Businesses, Misses Mullins and Carmody will open their millinery establishment today (April 13) in the Anderson Hall Building in the room they occupied last fall. A large and attractive stock of goods will be displayed. Mrs. E.N. Dill has moved to the house opposite the Methodist Episcopal Church on Church Street belonging to John Brett (about opposite the present parsonage on Broadway) where she will continue dress and cloak making.

The Whitehall Times December 3, 1981

The Whitehall Millstone 1881 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Last summer a millstone was brought to Skenesborough Museum through the efforts of Frank Bessette, who had long been a friend of the Museum, and the Skenesborough staff.

It is known that Philip Skene had a gristmill at the Falls besides his sawmill, iron works and warehouses. It would be good if we could claim this stone as his and have a third thing that was actually his, as we have the keystone in the Masonic temple and his office chair.

We sought information from a man who has restored a gristmill and is using it in Hartford to grind grain which he sells to visitors to his mill. This is his opinion after he made a special trip to Whitehall to inspect the stone for us:

“On Monday, Oct. 5, 1981, I inspected the millstone located at the corner of the Skenesborough Museum. It is my judgment that the millstone was a bed stone because:

1. Bed stones usually have a square opening in the center to allow for centering the shaft which drives the top or “runner” stone.
2. The absence of holes in the edge of the stone which allows one to lift a runner or top stone with a crane.

I believe that the stone was used for something other than grinding grain because millstones for grinding grain are made of granite or quartz material. The stone appears to be made from sandstone. It could have been used for polishing or grinding flat surfaces on slate or marble.

Floyd Harwood,
Whitehall, N.Y.

Uninformed in such matters, I wonder if the stone could have had any part of the paint mill industry described in The Whitehall Times edition of 30 November 1881:

The Paint Mill

The Hatch Hill red slate paint mill has begun operations and E.W. Hall, the proprietor, has again commenced active operations to assist our community in his enterprises.

The new mill is located in Hancock's old machine shop and is now turning out three tons of paint each day from one run of stone. Two more mills are being put in readiness for work when the works will grind and ship a carload of excellent paint each day.

The material is the refuse slate of the celebrated Hatch Hill red slate quarry and is especially adapted for paint. It is soft and better color than most mineral paint and is extensively used in Canada, its preservation qualities causing it to last for years. When the whole concern is in operation, the mill will be a valuable acquisition to this place.

The Whitehall Times March 21, 1974

More of 1874 Businesses Around Town Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Three hotels: Hall's Hotel, the one that had so many names because of changing proprietors on Canal Street; Yule house on Broad Street; Bartlett House, formerly the Vaughn or Vaughan House (the name Bartlett did not catch on) on Canal Street (Canal Street in this year being Main street). Now we have the New Arlington Hotel and Redwood Motel.

Two furniture stores: James Doren and John Chapman, both on Williams street and both undertakers also. Now we have Scott's Furniture store.

One fish troll manufacturer: J. T. Buel at the corner of present Main and Clinton Avenue. Now we have the Northern Specialty Company on Williams Street operated by Ruth Jackson.

Four transportation lines: Northern Transportation Company; Whitehall Transportation company; H. G. Burleigh; 'Ti' Steamboat company.

Three hardware stores: Pierce, Cowan & Co., successor to Heman C. Allen that year; G. A. Hall and Company; and H. S. Bull. Now we have Pippo's Hardware.

Two photographers: Richardson's new photographic studio nearly opposite the Adirondack Spring (now Broadway); Cullen W. Adams near the end of the tunnel. We have one. G. & M. Photos on Saunders Street.

Two carpet stores: H. R. Wait; J. P. Blakeslee. Carpets are now sold from Scott's Furniture store.

Three tailoring establishments: Mrs. C. Willard at her home; J. Phil Graulich; Baker Patterson & Co.

Seven insurance agencies: A. G. Bristol; Doren & Earl's; Bull Brothers; William P. Lamb; J. A. Watkins; Nathan Hall; Eddy Bros. There are three in their own offices now; W. T. Burns Agency; Kinner Insurance Company; Edward J. Williams's agency.

Six boots and shoe: Edwin C. Pratt; Baker, Patterson & Company; Henry Adams; P. H. Corbett (bought Ambrose Gilligan's stock that year); Edward Reed; E. Kirkland in 1871. Shoes can be bought in Barber's clothing store and Roselli's clothiers.

Six dry goods stores: Mabbett Cheap Cash store; S. K. Griswold; H. T. Gaylord; Chapin & Allen; J. P. Blakeslee; J.H. H Parke; E.Reed.

Two harness shops: L. F. Miller opposite Yule house; and in 1869 Frank Fish opened a new one at the east end of the middle bridge.

Four carpenter shops: James Doren; John Chapman; A. C. Hopson (must have had a shop as he was an architect and builder); John Jalet in 1871 was an architect carpenter and builder.

One gun shop: A. Selden, gun and locksmith on Williams Street. He died 15 May 1874.

Seven shipyards: This was the time of building canal boats and small boats for the lake trade: John O'Reilly; Bizer McFerran; N. T. Jillson; J. & H. Adams; William Hannis; Reed & Murray; Louis Waters.

Four public halls: Anderson Hall; Griswold Hall; Y.M.C.A. on now Broadway; Vaughan Parlors.

One Ice Cream saloon: None was advertised in the March issues, but in 1871 Mrs. W. G. Osborn was on Division Street and Mrs. S. E. Tatro on Saunders Street.

Three barber shops: The only one advertised was that of Henry Coshburn whose wife had a hairdressing business from his shop also.

Four milliners: Mrs. M. Doherty on Williams street advertised. Women did not seem to put their wares in the paper.

Two spring bed makers: James Doren advertised spring beds for sale.

Five drug stores: Dr. William H. Renois; Lawrence Corbett; O. A. Manville; C. C. Adams; J. R. Broughton. We have Woodcock's pharmacy.

The Whitehall Times **November 12, 1970**

J. T. Buel
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

For ten days after Nov. 12, the mural on the life of Julio T. Buel, presented to Skenesborough Museum by J. Eppinger Company, will be on display in Fragnoli Brothers store window with pictures of Whitehall about the time of Mr. Buel's business in the village.

Julio T. Buel, born in Poultney, Vt., came to Whitehall in 1827 with his father. In 1829 they constructed a brick building on Broad Street, north of the present Barber clothing Business. Broad Street left Canal Street at this point, the whole now being Main Street. Here a furrier and a taxidermy business were carried on. Julio and his wife, Sarah Barney lived on Saunders Street in a home on the site of the present New York Telephone building.

1848 marked his first patent and the start of the fishing tackle business for Julio. He tested each bit of tackle before putting it on the market and after 1858 other patents appeared. He specialized in spinning bait and fly spoons.

The first famous Buel spoon, for the trade was world wide, was the shape of an actual spoon made of heavy tin, painted vermilion on one side and highly burnished on the other. He was awarded a medal at the Philadelphia Centennial in 1876.

Mr. Buel held many public offices, among them for 12 years, 1861-1873, deputy collector of customs, and supervisor. The locally famous "Court of Reconciliation," which settled many disputes, was conducted in his store with a Mr. Eddy and Julio as judges.

Because of ill health, Mr. Buel sold his business to Charles B. Pike in 1885. He died a year later, 13 May 1886.

Skenesborough Museum has a collection of original Buel Spoons, gifts of Mrs. Ruth Jackson and William Williams.

Dropped Spoon Led to W **By Joan Patton** **Correspondent** **August 18, 1991**

He was a farm boy who loved fishing, but look what he started.

Julio Buel was born in East Poultney, Vt. in 1806. The family moved to nearby Castleton, where he grew up, helping with farm chores, learning about trapping and preparing skins from his dad, a furrier, and spending every spare minute he could fly-casting.

They said that Julio said he liked trout fishing "almost as much as anything he could think of."

On Lake Bomoseen, a few miles to the north, his dad had a hunting shanty, where he kept a boat. One day, the story goes, Julio was out fishing.

He was finishing his lunch when the drifting boat bumped against a submerged rock, and he dropped the spoon he'd been using to eat fruit packed in an earthenware jar. He watched it spiral down into the depths of the lake, and saw the big fish that swam off with that spoon.

Don't you know he swiped another spoon when he got home, and when he had a chance, soldered a hook on the concave side of the bowl, sawed off part of the handle and drilled a hole in the stump.

Julio snuck off to the lake early one morning, when his brother Alex had agreed to do his share of the morning chores, too. He tethered the horse in a meadow near a shanty, quietly launched the boat, and rowed out on to the mist-covered lake.

He tied the line to the spoon/hook and let it sink. Julio rowed, trolling back and forth across the same stretch of lake, hoping to find out once and for all if there were really big trout in the lake, as folks always said there were.

You guessed it there came a big tug on the pole, but Julio was able, after much exertion, to bring aboard the first fish ever taken with a metal trolling lure. He figured

there must be more of those big ones, and sure enough, caught another big trout, which had been lurking in the deeps of Lake Bomoseen.

You can imagine the stir he made as he walked his horse down Castleton's main street, just to give folks the chance to see the huge fish he'd caught.

He finally admitted how he'd caught them. His growing skill as a furrier was matched, or overshadowed, by his skill as inventor of trolling lures.

Almost before he knew it, he was in the business of making spoons for local fishermen eager to catch those big ones. He made spoon like blades of nickel silver, painted the convex side a brilliant red, attached treble hooks, and feathers.

At the age of 21, Julio struck off on his own, moving to Whitehall, a bustling canal town, where he opened a furrier's shop on Canal Street. He made beaver hats, fished Lake Champlain and the nearby Adirondack lakes, and improved his lures, selling a few.

Enter the sports writer known as Frank Forester, whose articles in "Spirit of the Times" Julio read avidly. Julio sent Forester some spoons. Forester wrote enthusiastically about Buel's spoons in his new book, "Warwick Woodlands."

That really did it. There was an overwhelming clamor from fishermen, and Julio had to make the choice. The sign he'd painted with a high-crowned hat still hung outside his shop in 1848, but inside, the J. T. Buel Co. was in full swing.

Bud resisted short cuts and insisted on fine craftsmanship. The spoon blades were made of polished nickel silver, the hooks were nickel plated, fine piano wire and the plumage of wildfowl were used. His half-brother, Charles B. Pike, a jeweler became the quality controller. The fame of Buel's spoons grew thanks to their quality and efficacy and complimentary things which appeared in print. He never-needed to advertise.

When the Centennial Celebration came along in 1876, Buel was there to accept a medal for his contribution to sport fishing.

Buel sold his business to Charlie Pike in 1885.

The J. T. Buel Co. moved out of Whitehall in 1927 to Saratoga Springs, where it operated until World War II. It changed hands several times more before becoming part of the Eppinger Manufacturing Co. in October 1967.

There's lots of information —and examples of Buel's work — in the Skenesborough Museum, and there will be a special section devoted to him in the Urban Cultural Park Visitor's Center, slated to open at the museum on Sept. 14. (The museum has been closed this season for renovation.)

And that's no fish story.

This article is based on The Spooners. About Some of Those Who Contributed to the History of Fishing Spoons. Written by Harvey W. Thompson and published by Eppinger Manufacturing Co. Dearborn, Mich. copyright 1979.

The Whitehall Times

July 1, 1976

Buel Spoon, Whitehall Product

The name Whitehall became synonymous with the name Buel Spoon to fishermen all over the world.

An angler from his childhood, the inventor of this trolling spoon, Julio Thomas Buel, was born in Poultney. Vt., 12 October 1806. Fishing in Lake Bomoseen, he obtained the idea of a trolling spoon as he watched one of his mother's silver spoons spinning to the bottom of the lake.

Moving to Whitehall in 1827 he entered his father's furrier and beaver hat business at the corner of Broad Street and Clinton Avenue. But fishing was his main interest and over the years in the nearby waters he experimented with fishing tackle, until he had perfected and obtained 12 patents. In 1848 he turned the hat shop into a manufacturing plant for fishing supplies and took out his first patent in 1852. He took a medal at the Philadelphia Centennial in 1876.

In his plant he conducted a profitable business, and filled various local offices, one of which was deputy collector of customs. 1861-1873. He was supervisor in 1858-1859. Charitable, public spirited, and humorous he was a familiarly known as judge. This appellation came from the Court of Reconciliation held in his store, the cracker box seat of honor. Many quarrels and misunderstandings among neighbors were aired before Judges Buel and Eddy" and settled' without the participants seeking legal procedures.

In 1886, no longer physically able to carry on, he sold the business, patents, and building to jeweler Charles B. Pike. From his home on Saunders Street, the site of the New York Telephone building, he could look across the Street to see the shop in which Mr. Pike was producing the Buel tackle.

Mr. Buel married Sarah A. Barney of Hatch Hill. They had six children. He died 13 May 1886 but the business he started survives.

The business was sold by Mr. Pike to E. Hammond in Saratoga Springs. After World War 11 Frank T. Dunn purchased it and took it to Canton, N.Y. From there it changed hands to E. P. Eppinger, Dearborn, Mich. The owner produced a mural of Whitehall and the Buel spoon industry to present to the Skenesborough Museum where it now hangs with some examples of the spoons given by the late Nelson Fagan and Mrs. Ruth Jackson. Nelson Fagan worked in the factory of Charles Pike and afterwards established the Northern Specialty Fishing Tackle Company in which he carried the Buel Spoon line. He sold the business to Mr. and Mrs. William Jackson who in turn carried the line. This business was also sold to E. P. Eppinger in 1974.

The Whitehall Times December 28, 1978

Court of Conciliation Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Julio T. Buel was a famous Whitehall merchant who produced the world renowned trolling spoons. In the later part of his life he gave a great deal of time to his "Court of Conciliation." This court was held in his store by the side of the wood stove and on dry goods boxes.

The December term had two cases. It seems odd to have such cases tried by a court with no real authority, but the claim for it was that many disagreements were settled without being carried to the village court, saving money.

The first case was I.V. Baker against Allen C. Sawyer. Baker, thinking Sawyer was a member of the village board, paid one dollar for a carriage to carry them to Cook Street to examine a proposed extension of that street.

After a lengthy discussion, Sawyer, not a village trustee but a member of the board of education, said he'd bring the matter before the board. Baker said Allen had no right to ride in the carriage but Sawyer insisted.

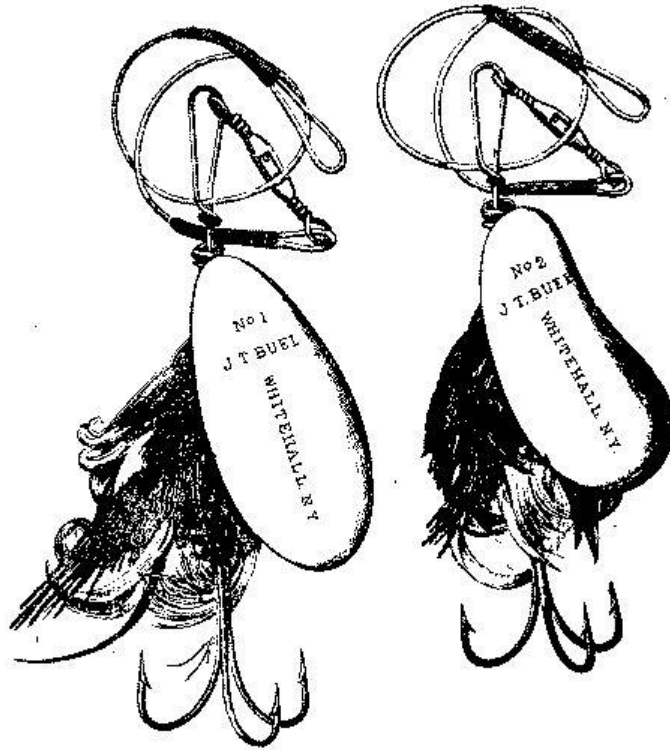
Sawyer did not appear at a trial and was notified that he should pay the costs. The school commissioner was instructed not to pay Sawyer's salary. The case was referred to Judge Potter who ruled the only remedy was to appeal to the Court of Conciliation or appeal to Congress for relief. A stay of proceeding was granted until Feb. 29 when Sawyer should offer evidence why judgment should not stand.

The second case had to do with cruelty to animals. A gentle horse, Tom, had long been driven by women and children and had carried the clergy in funeral processions. One day two citizens met this horse, driven by an ex-supervisor of the town. The "gentle" horse was running at a dangerous speed with his mouth open, his eyes starting from his head and his long heavy tail rolling over his back like a wild horse.

Two strangers had been in town, and a claim was made that a very powerful stimulant had been given by these horse trainers. "Judge" Buel found the law said in such a case the horse could be confiscated and the ex-supervisor could be fined and imprisoned. Tom was confiscated to see if he could be brought back to his former condition and character by rigid diet. The matter was to be settled at the same time as the Baker vs. Sawyer case.

The outcome of the two cases was not reported in the March 5 paper. Excitement had probably died down.

Happy New Year to all.



The Whitehall Times
September 21, 1978

David Richey: Dardevle's Guide to Fishing
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A book already published and ready for the market this fall is David Richey: Dardevle's Guide to Fishing. According to its dust jacket, Dave Richey offers a few tricks that will help increase your catch and fun. This prolific and well-known author tells you where to fish for what; how to do it and when; and which of the great variety of Dardevle lures to use for best results."

This lure came from the Eppinger Manufacturing Company of Detroit. His 1979 catalog says: When the 20th century had barely begun, young Lou Eppinger developed a remarkable new lure that soon achieved national acclaim. The spoon was uniquely designed with curves and plane surfaces which gave it a fish-maddening action. From the beginning, only the finest of materials and high quality workmanship went into the manufacture of Dardevles. It's the same today. A few years ago, the Dardevle Folks acquired a fine old firm that in the 1830's introduced the first all metal trolling lure. The owner, Julio T. Buel, known as the Baitmaker of Whitehall (N.Y.), was also insistent on quality control. Mr. Buel's fine lures are again being produced by Eppinger's just as they were back in Whitehall, when this country was very young.

A "few years ago" mentioned was the occasion when Harvey Warner Thompson came to Whitehall to search out information about Julio T. Buel and Whitehall. One of

the results was the production of a film on the fishing tackle and Buel and Whitehall. Mr. Thompson is an assistant to Mr. Eppinger. A little later these two men brought the film and a mural to present to Skenesborough Museum.

Eppinger Manufacturing had bought the Julio T. Buel Company, purchased the Northern Specialty concern, and now has added O.C. Tuttle's famous Devil Bugs, which are deer hair favorites. Now the Tackle Manufacturing Association, of which Mr. Eppinger is a member, wishes to found a tackle museum in Detroit and produce a history of fishing tackle.

Another first for Whitehall is the world's production of Buel's fine lures. To complete a history, many facets must be disclosed. One is to trace the complete route the Julio T. Buel's spoons took before reaching Detroit. We know they went to Saratoga, to somewhere on Lake Erie, and then to Detroit, but not the details of the journey. We know that the names of Buel, Pike, Fagan, Koch, Harder, Hardy and Jackson are interwoven in the fishing spoon business of Whitehall but what the relationship was is not clear.

I'm sure Whitehall would like to assist in compiling information to aid Mr. Thompson in this search and to give prominence to our town in the process. Will anyone who has information about these lures and tackle get in touch with Mrs. Ruth Jackson or me? Stories of fishing, individuals who are or were fishermen, sources of the tackle to see or acquire, fish of the area anything at all about fishing and tackle will be grist for the mill.

Mr. Eppinger sent by Mr. Thompson a copy of 'Daredevil's Guide to Fishing' to the Town of Whitehall. I shall be happy to loan it for examination, as I think it might be one of those objects that would fill a man's Christmas stocking.

The Whitehall Times

September 20, 1979

The Spooners

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

About some of those who contributed to the History of Fishing Spoons.

You may recall a review of a book about the Daredevil fishing gear made a while ago. Now comes a booklet from the same source, the first half of which is devoted to Julio T. Buel's spoons.

This booklet tells the story of the birth of the fishing tackle industry in Whitehall. Harvey W. Thompson of the Eppinger Manufacturing Company has written in a lively manner the story of Julio T. Buel and his trolling spoons.

Along search of sources in sports magazines, personal visits to the places Buel lived and traveled libraries and genealogies, museums for pictures of the spoons themselves, advertisements and catalogs of tackle companies produced the materials for the book.

Then came the writing. Mr. Thompson first gave the tale of how Buel's first trolling spoon originated (a little different from the one we have heard). He traced Buel's

removal from Vermont to Whitehall and the success story of the new industry in Whitehall. After that he followed the path of J.T. Buel Spoon Company after Buel sold it to Charles Pike, a jeweler in Whitehall. It went to Saratoga Springs, to Canton, to Watertown, and finally to Dearborn, Mich., where it now is a part of the Eppinger Manufacturing company.

Besides the story of the J .T. Buel Company, Mr. Thompson gave a story of the imitators of the Buel spoon in Whitehall and other places. There was the Harder Company operated by Guerdon and his successors Gordon and Cy Woodbury in Diamond Point; the Cloverleaf Hook Company of Nelson Fagan and William Koch which was absorbed into the Northern Specialty Company of Nelson Fagan. This company was purchased by Mrs. Ruth Jackson who sold it to the Eppinger Company.

The booklet is illustrated with pictures —Whitehall in Buel's time, streams in Castleton, the Buel mural and original spoons Skenesborough, catalog covers, and Ed Eppinger as he looked over Whitehall in 1974 when he purchased the Northern Specialty and the fishing lure left Whitehall after 126 years of manufacture.

The topic, "Julio T. Buel, Baitmaker and the Fishing Tackle Industry" will be discussed by Mrs. Ruth Jackson, Saturday, Sept. 22, when the Washington County Historical society meets in the Trinity church rooms. Original spoons and catalogs will be on display. The public is welcome.

The other half of the booklet will be described next week.

The Whitehall Times **September 27, 1979**

Buel and Eppinger Companies **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

The .J.T. Buel Company that began manufacture of trolling spoons in Whitehall in 1848 is now a part of the Eppinger Manufacturing Company in Dearborn, Mich. The latter business is famous world wide for its casting spoons. Its story is told in the booklet. "The Spooners" by Harvey Thompson, reviewed last week in this column. The second part of the booklet gives the history of the Eppinger Company from which comparison can be made to the Buel spoon industry

Lou J. Eppinger. German born was an apprentice to a furrier and taxidermist in Detroit as Julio T. Buel was to his furrier and hatter father Ezekiel in Castleton. When fishermen came to have their "big fellows" mounted, Lou decided a line of fishing tackle would be a profitable sideline to the taxidermy. Early on, Lou went fishing as Julio did continually in the neighboring waters. He applied the lessons learned to the designing and manufacturing of the spoon, naming the first one for the 'best fisherman I ever saw," the Osprey. Word of mouth spread the news of Lou's spoons as it did for Julio.

In 1918 the Eppinger Company took in an apprentice nephew. Edward Eppinger, and for 40 years this team, Lou and Ed, produced hundreds of spoons. The name changed from Osprey to Dardevle, shortened from the original Dare Devil. The company moved

into new and larger quarters where fishermen could purchase the spoon that could be “cast into the wind without a whiplash,” and other paraphernalia.

In the new quarters occurred another similarity to Julio’s. He had a store where men felt easy to sit around the stove spinning yarns and telling of the “big ones that got away” or being tried in Buel and Eddy’s “Court of Reconciliation.” The informal judgments of the court were usually followed and saved hard feelings and court costs. In Eppinger’s large store was the “Rustic Lodge,” an area where groups met evenings to discuss their favorite sports with experts or just to talk.

In the 1900s the company moved to still larger quarters with the Dardevle in its own building. New tackle came in new colors and patterns. Vice President Ed became an advertiser on the road, sportsmen’s shows and on TV. With the death of Lou Eppinger he became the company president. The retail business was closed out but the manufacture of spoons has kept on.

Unlike Julio’s company the Eppinger Company did not leave the home area. After traveling to four bases the J.T. Buel Company had become a part of the Eppinger Manufacturing Company with Edward Eppinger and his daughter Karen on hand. They are keeping alive the story of the fishing tackle industry that originated in Whitehall so many years ago.

The Whitehall Times

November 1, 1970

Other Fishing Tackle Business

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Other fishing tackle business has been carried on in Whitehall since the first one in 1848.

The Julio T. Buel Company was continued by Charles B. Pike who purchased it in 1885. He carried it on in his jewelry shop in the building constructed by Mr. Buel at 17 Broad Street. Pictures of older Whitehall show his round sign with a curved fish and C. B. Pike, The Jeweler, printed under it as it extended over the walk.

This first building burned in 1906 and he removed to the flatiron building by the railroad crossing (later occupied by Billy Milos). This was south of the present American Legion Hall. His sign on top of this building is prominent in another Whitehall picture.

From this site he moved the business to his land on Blount Street, where he and his wife, Elizabeth (Bristol) Pike lived. Here he conducted a large mail order business from a small shop south of his home, now owned by James Parrott. In 1927 Mr. Pike retired from business and sold the Julio T. Buel Company outside the village.

The Whitehall Times
November 26, 1970

(No Title)

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The fishing tackle business did not leave Whitehall with Mr. Pike's retirement. Already the Northern Specialty Company was in production.

In Whitehall Chronicle advertisements, 1904, William Koch from West Haven was manufacturing gangs, hooks, and other tackle which were sold in J. H. Matthews' and John Boyd's pharmacies. Nelson Fagan had worked for Charles Pike and knew the possibilities of this type of business.

In 1915 Fagan and Koch entered partnership in the barn of the Fagan home on Canal Street, now Robert Juckett's place. The barn was nearer West Street opposite Central School. A profitable business resulted but marriage and World War intervened. Koch married school teacher Gail Proctor and Fagan went to work for the silk mill, then in war production.

In 1917 Nelson Fagan built his home on Pike Street and in 1918 in partnership with Willis Fisher built a shop in back of his house. Here a worldwide business developed. At first the two men used to tour the area in the fall obtaining orders. Later "Doc" Kent and Robert Fagan were their agents. Much business was done with Canada but the largest area buyer was J. L. Bean in Maine.

Mr. Kent's wife was Eileen Hardy whose brother had another fishing tackle business in Whitehall.

After 40 years of business in his Pike Street shop, Nelson Fagan decided to retire. On February 1, 1958, he sold Northern Specialty to William and Ruth Jackson. Ruth had worked for Nelson many years and had a thorough knowledge of the business. This business she still conducts at 4 Williams Street.

The Whitehall Times
July 4, 1974

1874

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

J. T. Buel the famous - tackle man, took from the waters of the lake a trout that weighed 14 1/2 pounds and another that weighed 5 1/2 pounds. The fish were caught on a fine hair line with a spoon.

The Whitehall Times
October 30, 1980

November 1880 in Whitehall
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Another first for Whitehall is the Birthplace of the Fishing Tackle Industry. So anything about its founder, Julio T. Buel, is of interest. "Henry" of Castleton, Vt., penned this letter to the editor of The Whitehall Time

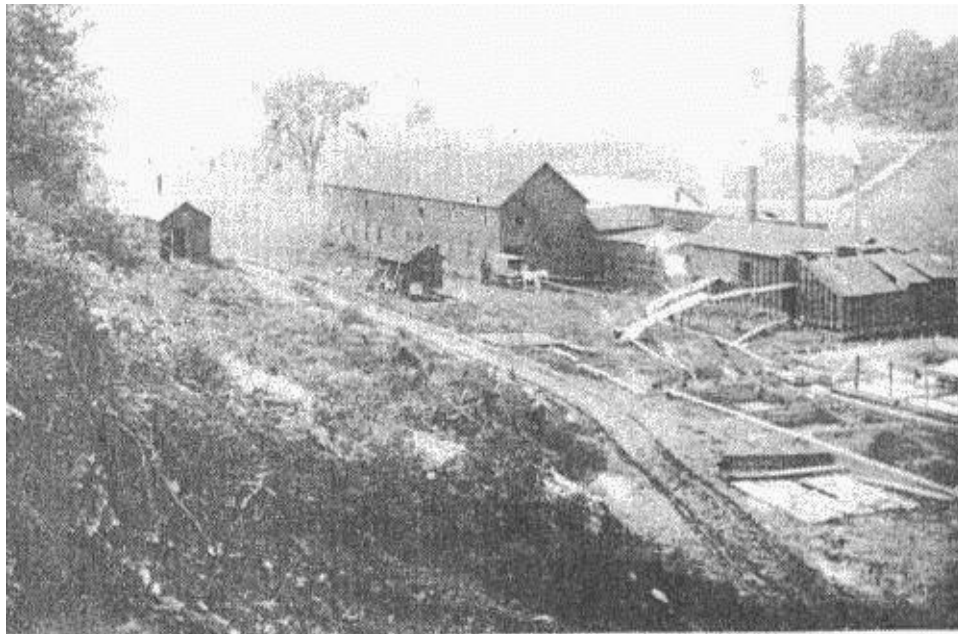
The Hon. J. T. Buel, Chief Justice of the highest tribunal of the State of New York, was in town last week. It was pleasant to see the honorable gentleman meet his old friends of yore. He is a native of this place. The friends of his early years are his friends of today.

It is well for him such is the case, as arrangements were progressing for his arrest for an act committed 46 years since, when his old friends came to his relief and saved him the trouble and disgrace that would have caused him. In 1836 he with two others caused to be placed in Lake Bomoseen, then Castleton Pond, some pickerel.

A pickerel resembles a Republican, so voracious they eat everything else. The result is that the beautiful trout salmon that once inhabited these waters have left them. Now it is pickerel and bullhead. The crime was atrocious.

Signed,
Henry

The Whitehall Times
August 12, 1976



The Whitehall Times
August 19, 1976

The Manufacturing Plant on the Buel Farm
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In this column and elsewhere I have often spoken of the value of newspapers in the research of local history. Even one issue may have the desired information on a subject. A case in point is a manufacturing plant, the picture of which was printed in last week's Whitehall Times. The picture was first, showing the location. A verbal account told of a plant that has existed which prepared the material for shipment by train.

Then in a perusal of some clippings the description of the proposed business appeared. The picture confirmed that the plant was actually built and ran. This was only one issue of April 28, 1899. Succeeding issues must have told the progress of the building of the plant and the successful business that ensued. But so far there are no such issues available because of fire and destruction.

This plant was on the present farm of Hanford Austin. He can point out signs on his place that locate the sites of the buildings and show the remains of some of the clay that was used in making the product. In fact, it was just recently that he finally leveled some mounds of it over his land.

The 1899 newspaper has this to say of the 'New Industry' that was to be operated on the Buel Farm. George Buel, brother of Julio Buel of the fishing tackle business, was the owner of the land. These are excerpts:

A \$10,000 plant is to be erected this summer and operations commenced at once. Its capacity will be ten tons a day. The Brandon Paint Company was incorporated with a capitalization of \$25,000 with directors F. E. Harvey, Sandy Hill; J. C. Mount, Brooklyn; John B. Humphrey and Walter I Rand, Boston.

Mr. Harvey had experimented with the deposit for two years. It was shipped to Saratoga and refined before being used as a dye. The color ran from a light brown to the deepest shade of brown and was used for both inside and outside work. The peculiar properties made it especially adapted for dyeing leather and cloth. Quantities of the paint had been sent to different parts of the country and even to England to be distributed to all parts of the globe.

Reports received from the different parties showed that the paint excelled that of any other mine in the world for coloring cloth and yarns. Many large standing orders had already been received.

The company secured a 99 year lease of the mine and was to erect a large and suitable plant for placing the paint on the market. Four or five buildings were to be erected at a cost of \$4,000. The plant was to be equipped with 150 horsepower engine to be run by a gang of three boilers. All the latest modern machinery for grinding, both dry and in oil, were to be placed in the buildings. From 15 to 20 men were to be employed.

The last sentence included the assurance that a thriving and growing industry would soon be started. According to the picture such was the case but there are no papers available to tell the rest of the story. Incidentally the picture of the Cooke Mansion in the background is the only available one of that building at present. Perhaps some reader has knowledge of the existence of one

The Whitehall Times
September 24, 1981

The Story of Whitehall's Silk Mills
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



Whitehall's silk mills, once the staple economic factor in the life of the village, are now only a fond memory of the many citizens who worked in them. But their rise and fall is a fascinating story to the many who did not know them.

During the mid-nineteenth century years, Whitehall was a great manufacturing village. John Boyd, a downstate young man set out to seek his future, stopped overnight in Albany. There he asked the hotel owner what place he would go to seek his fortune. The man replied. "Well, there are two promising places - Rochester and Whitehall". Whitehall had factories for sash, blinds, and doors. There was a carpet factory, a foundry, a grist mill, all using power from the falls of Wood Creek at the head of Lake Champlain. However, fires took their toll of the wooden buildings and they were not replaced. Then the depression of 1873 occurred.

A group of business men of the community, the forerunners of the chamber of commerce, tried many schemes to bring industry to the village. So in earnest were they that in 1879 they erected a gray, five story stone building 75 by 50 feet, at the east side below the falls to entice manufacturers. It became known as the Water Power company building.

After many disappointments, they were delighted to welcome a silk man from Paterson, N.J., who needed a larger work force. He had seen the circulars describing the advantages of Whitehall for industry. This man was Frederick S. Dale. The silk industry is known as a parasite industry as it depends on the woman force which accompanies a male industry, in Whitehall's case the railroad. Mr. Dale liked what he saw and agreed to a six-year lease of the stone building with an option to buy and to add another building 100 by 50 feet to the Water Power company building, making the whole six stories high.

Excited Whitehalls subscribed \$12,000 secured by a 6% mortgage to build the factory and \$2500 to defray expenses for moving the machinery to Whitehall from Paterson. With shares selling at \$25 each, and the Merchants National Bank (now the Key Bank) agreeing to half of the loan, the citizens rose to the challenge and the money was paid promptly through the efforts of the leading citizens.

The lease was signed 12 April 1887 and by 4 May eight loads of the 38 loads of machinery arrived at Davis Switch and were stored in the old Northern Transportation Line's store house and Captain Jac Reed's barn. It would be moved into the newly cleaned and whitewashed Water Power Company's building by James Busteed and O.A. Manville. Mr. Dale arrived with 20 expert employees with their families, including Superintendent Charles H. Streiber. Mr. Herschel, hydraulic engineer, and architect F. William Rumpf.

On 11 July the contract for the new building, 100 by 50 feet was signed, to be ready by November. Mr. Rumpf had to fit a new six story brick building to the five story stone Water Power Company's building. This he did but not until 1888 by making the first story 13 feet 8 inches high and the other three 14 feet. Fitting the fifth story into that of the first building and forming a large room 160 feet by 50 feet without pillar or post as the sixth floor. This made an Ideal room for the many social events of the town, especially church fairs held in it.

Mr. Herschel struggled with the installation of the water wheel. The high water of the season kept work on the coffer dam slow but the imported wheel, 42 inches in diameter with 130 horse power soon discharged 440 cubic feet of water per minute from the 12 foot fall.

No sooner had these plans been put into action than the enterprising Mr. Dale proposed an additional building on the south side of the Water Power Company building. In preparation he purchased a 200 foot waterfront from W.H. Cooke and asked the town to widen the street (Around the Mountain) just below the bridge to the south of the gray Building. A special town meeting, 46 to 6 voted \$2,000 for this project and let the work out by yards to contractors Dr. Long, James Doren, Joseph Wilson, O.F. Davis and Richard Chapin.

The Whitehall Times

October 19, 1887

Awakened 1887

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

AWAKENED! Under an editorial with this title Mr. Wilkins broke the news of a new industry coming to Whitehall. He reported that arrangements had been made for a large silk mill industry to be established that would give employment for 300 people at the start.

Mr. Frederick S. Dale brought his superintendent and three foremen from his silk mill in Paterson, New Jersey. They agreed that Whitehall had the very best facilities for operating their machinery. There had been strikes in New Jersey and the Water Power

Company of Whitehall had held out promises. Dale's mill was a complete silk plant for the manufacture of silk bindings, cord, ladies dress bindings in all colors, and throwings for weaving dress silks.

Mr. Dale would bring a dozen families here and select operatives from the young people of Whitehall fourteen to twenty-one years of age. The plant would be moved to Whitehall I May and be installed in the five story grey stone building of Whitehall Water Power Company. This building became the center part of the Old Silk Mill for so many years. Additional building would be started immediately to be ready 1 June. This would be a clean industry.

The men behind this venture were Judge J. Potter and business men S. K. Griswold and John C. Earl. The Water Power Company invested \$25,000 for which act Editor Wilkins wrote: Let us all rejoice about the energy and pluck of the Water Power Company.

The Whitehall Times **October 1, 1981**

(No Title)

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

With Edgar Souter as manager, Mr. Meyer built up a more profitable business, adding machinery from England, opening up new departments, and hiring more help. In 1906 he constructed the second building, of which Mr. Dale had dreamed, on the south side of the original Water Power Company building, 71 by 50 feet, and later a boiler room and blacksmith shop.

Another development was the "red building" erected on the cliff of Skene Mountain reached by a tramway over Williams. Here embossed silk ribbon was produced. In the same year a branch office was started in Brooklyn. Many Whitehallers remember the many round trips made by Fenwick Vanderwerker to that city with the silk mill truck.

In 1907 Mr. Lowenstein started a plant of his own in Providence, R.I. His brother-in-law Jack Israel succeeded him as manager in Whitehall. In 1912 Champlain Silk mills became associated with New York bankers known as the firm of Frederick, Victor and Achele, who took charge of the financial operation of the mill. O.D. Frost became general manager and sales manager with offices in New York.

In the meantime Mr. Dale had purchased the castellated stone mansion of the late George C. Hall and had it thoroughly renovated. Here on 30 June he brought his wife and three children. From it on 4 July he treated the townspeople with a spectacular firework display that illuminated the many windows of the castle and its turret. Mr. Dale was an extravagant man and a lover of ostentation in public and in private life.

In September 1887 Mr. Dale opened the mill for inspection. About 500 people visited it in the afternoon. The wheel was set in motion at 3:15, started by Misses Bessie Parks and LuLu Dale, Morgan B. Griswold and Chester C. Wilkins. The following Monday active work began with 80 operators employed under the guidance of James

Barr in the braiding department and William Rogers, foreman in the hard silk department. Both men came from Paterson with Mr. Dale. The work on the floors was thus described:

First floor contained the building boiler for manufacturing purposes, soaking tubs (the first process the raw silk takes) and the general machine shop which contained lathes and circular saws; second floor was where the raw silk was first received and sorted. The rest of the room was utilized by braiding machinery of different sizes; the third floor contained the office and spinning machines, overhead spindles being set in motion when the machines were all at work; the fourth floor contained the winding room where the girls were employed. Here were 1,000 bobbins in operation; the fifth floor and top floor was used for winding dyed silk braiding and boxing for shipment.

In 1888 with the assistance of Manager Frank, successor to Mr. Streiber, the north building was completed to accommodate hard silk, producing silk yarn and ribbon. Success attended the venture until 1891 when financial firms in New York City in which Mr. Dale had interests fail and he was forced to give up the silk mill.

Mr. Frank was temporary head of the mill and auctioned off the machinery in the mill in four lots. The machinery was purchased for Aubrey E. Meyer by his brothers for \$15,050. Aubrey Meyer from Paterson had always been interested in the silk industry, learning it from his father who had pioneered in it. He had three aims in the silk industry in Whitehall: to get the mill building for less than the asking price of \$88,000, to be exempt from town taxes, and to have the use of the village water at a reasonable rate. The villagers, believing in his promise to make the silk mill better than ever and knowing that their livelihood was in balance, accepted his offer.

Mr. Meyer brought his wife to live in the mansion occupied by Mr. Dale on the west hill, produced exhibitions of fireworks also for the villagers, and showed them a rich way of life. His two children were born there. When his son Aubrey appeared, a flag was raised on the silk mill pole. He brought with him as manager his brother-in-law, Edgar Lowenstein, who eventually lived in the grand manner also on the Terrace, in the present Skene Manor. Their wives are remembered as elegant dressers, riding around the village in splendid carriage turnouts with white wolfhounds.

The Whitehall Times

February 26, 1887

Whitehall in 1887

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Some additional material was given about the arrival of the silk mill. Frederick S. Dale brought with him from Paterson, New Jersey, Superintendent Charles H. Streter, and Messrs William Roger, James Barr, and William Greer from his factory there. They examined the five story Water Power Company building. At a public meeting to discuss the feasibility of using the building, it was decided to raise \$12,000 to construct an additional building and \$2,500 defrayed expenses of bringing the machinery from New Jersey.

The \$12,000 was raised by a first mortgage on the Water Power property by subscription. Shares at 25 cents each raised \$9,000. The Merchants National Bank agreed

to take half the loan. The cost of transferring the machinery was to be raised by subscription. This was a method used a great deal in Whitehall. The article ended on a note of optimism: "A new era for Whitehall seems now at hand."

The Whitehall Times **March 20 1975**

Silk Mill 1887 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Have you noticed the gray construction within the ruins of the old Champlain Silk mill? This was originally a five-story building of the Water Power Company of Whitehall. A long range plan of its present owners will preserve this structure with additions and a beautification project in the area. The owners are partners, William Osborne, Larry Wayne and Mrs. Charlotte Osborne, construction designers and contractors of East Poultney, VT.

An editorial in 6 April 1887 Whitehall Times electrified the community with the news that a silk mill was coming to Whitehall immediately. Frederick S. Dale of Paterson N.J. had to move his successful silk business to another location because of strikes among his workers.

The Water Power Company of Whitehall, like the Industrial Committee of the present Chamber of Commerce, had distributed information of the advantages of Whitehall for industry. Mr. Dale saw one of the brochures and came to Whitehall with his superintendent, Charles H. Strieber, and two foremen, William Rogers and James Barr, to investigate.

Mr. Dale liked what he saw and decided to move his complete silk mill here to manufacture silk bindings, cord and ladies dress bindings of all colors, and throwings for weaving silk. There was a ready market for the product and it was a nice, clean business.

Business men of the community backed the project. Those mentioned as being especially active carried on representative occupations of the time: Lawyers Joseph S. Potter, Thomas E. Lillie and Oscar F. Davis; editor and merchant W. A. Wilkins; Dr. Albert J. Long who was also the supervisor at the time; boot manufacturing and clerk, Charles Chapin, John C. Earl and Luke H. Carrington; grocers, James F. Billett and Samuel K. Griswold; insurance, W. B. Eddy and W. F. Bascom; farmer, R. H. Cooke and president of a bank; meat market, Marcus Manville and Edricck Skeels and lumber, W. H. Cooke. Some were involved in two industries at the time.

Townpeople subscribed funds; Luke Carrington and E. W. Skeels took up the subscription list for defraying the expenses of moving the machinery, \$2500. The Water Power Company was liberal, some stock holders donating their stock outright and other making liberal discounts on theirs. Many laboring men agreed to give a few days work on necessary building construction, and draymen agreed to carry the machinery from the train free.

So great was the enthusiasm that one subscription list showed \$9050 out of \$12,000 raised in three days after the first meeting while the list for \$2500 for moving the

machinery reached \$3,000. The Merchants National bank (forerunner of The Bank) took half of the loan secured by mortgage on the Water Power Company's property at 5 per cent with the option of Mr. Dale to buy at the original cost at the end of five years. Shares were \$25.

The plan was to move the plant to Whitehall by 1 May, which would set the first 150 persons to work in the five- story building and by 1 June to have the plant force of 300 operatives working. These workers were to be 14 to 21 years of age. These deadlines were not exactly met but the operations were set into fast action.

The Whitehall Times

March 27, 1975

Dale Silk Mill

(Continued)

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Mr. Dale reached Whitehall for work 1 May, 1887. On 3 May eight carloads of machinery arrived. On 5 May twenty expert employees arrived. The remaining 33 carloads of machinery came, to be stored in the Northern Transportation Line storehouse just to the north and in Jack Reed's barn.

The original Water Power Company's five-story building was 75 feet long and 50 feet wide. Mr. Dale needed another building with about the same size and capacity. The new building would be 100 feet by 50 feet with eleven feet between the floors. To make the top story of the two buildings meet for one large unbroken room 160 feet long and 50 feet wide the first story would need to be 13 feet eight inches high and the second, third and fourth each 14 feet. By adding another story to the five story building then in use, the required large room without a pillar or post would surmount the whole structure.

Bids were obtained for the construction of the new building. The contracts were let to Swayne and Riley of Glens Falls, the mason work being \$12,800; and to James Busteed, a local man who would do the carpentry, painting and slating for \$12,089. The new structure was to be completed by 1 November 1887.

Future plans were to construct an additional building if Mr. Dale could purchase 150 feet additional land from W. H. Cooke and if the village would widen the street just below the bridge and at a point at the south end of the Water Power Company land. This would hold an additional building 150 feet long on the north and another 145 feet running south.

The Water Power Company had built a boom in the creek to protect the flume from ice in March of this year. This had held up in April when it received the ice and shattered it to pieces. The high water of 1887 delayed putting in the coffer dam until 2 July. On 16 July engineer Herschal, Mr. Dale, and other interested people went up the canal to examine the source of water supply and found it adequate. By 10 August the 42-inch water wheel was in place. There was a 12-foot fall of water producing 140 horsepower which required 6640 cubic feet of water to run.

By 1 July 1887 the Dale family of wife and three children were installed in the George A. Hall stone mansion on West Hill which Mr. Dale had purchased. He made extensive repairs from the foundation to the turreted roof. On 4 July he entertained his family with elaborate fireworks which were enjoyed by the townspeople who were reminded of former days when the castle loomed up so grandly with its illuminated windows. This ends the story of the Dale Silk Mill until further accounts appear, as the newspaper run ends at this date in 1887.

The biographical notes on Aubrey Edgerton Meyers give a little of the next year's life of the silk mill. He was trained by his father in Paterson' N.J., in the silk industry. He came to Whitehall in 1888 and began the organization of the Champlain Silk Mill.

The factory he had was a 250 foot structure, six stories high with a capacity of 150,000 pounds of silk per year. It employed 500 skilled operators manufacturing spun silk yarn. This shows that Mr. Dale had succeeded in building the structure he planned. Mr. Meyer kept three traveling salesmen on the road and had extensive trade throughout the United States and Canada. This business was established in 1890 and incorporated in 1891. By 1901 it was the second largest industry of its kind in the world.

The Whitehall Times

June 14, 1979

The Silk Mill

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In the 1976 Bicentennial issue of The Whitehall Times this column had an article on the silk mill. The information available at the time of the article did not contain that concerning the first building used by Frederick Dale — only that it was the five-story building of the Water Power Company.

Mrs. June Tracy is cataloging the items in what we call the Seymour Scrapbook for the Research Library. She found the initial articles. The water power of Whitehall for many years served various businesses but these had burned or been destroyed when the Water Power Company erected the five story gray building with the hope of bringing industry to the village. It was erected eight years before Mr. Dale leased the building in 1887 for a term of ten years with the privilege of purchasing it. The contract also included the provision that he construct an additional building of sufficient size to employ 300 people. This he did immediately.

In September 1887 Mr. Dale invited the townspeople to witness the opening of the silk mill. About 500 people visited the building between 1 and 5. At 3:15 the wheel was started by Bessie Parks, Lulu Dale, Morgan Griswold and Chester Wilkins. Twenty experts handled the machinery and everything worked.

That Monday active work began with 80 operatives. The first floor contained the building boiler for manufacturing purposes, soaking tubs and machine shop. The second floor was the sorting of the raw silk and the braiding machines. The third floor contained the office and spinning machines, over 3,000 spindles at work. The fourth floor was the

winding room where only girls worked with 1.000 bobbins. The fifth floor was used for winding dyed silk, braiding and boxing for shipment.

Charles H. Streiber of Hamburg, Germany was superintendent. James Barr was the foreman of the braiding department and William Rogers was foreman of the hard silk department.

In January of 1888, Mr. Dale gave a grand promenade concert and brilliant benevolent ball. One hundred happy' couples danced \$285 into the hospital fund. The new building was 160 feet long and 50 feet wide. It was illuminated with electricity with one 50 candlepower and twenty-six 32 candlepower lights. The ceiling and sides were decorated with bunting and streamers: the green flag and gold harp of Erin and the tri-color of France mingled with the Stars and Stripes.

Doren's Orchestra of seven pieces played for the dancing of "the elite of the village and a number of ladies and gentlemen from abroad."

Supper was served at the Opera House Hotel. The room was decorated with Japanese ornaments and the menu was "satisfactory to the most exciting and capricious palate."

The Whitehall Times **October 8, 1986**

Whitehall As It Was, Is and Will Be **(1886)** **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Just when Whitehall was incorporated no one seems to know (1806-). It was about 1806 but the exact year has been forgotten and the town records lost or destroyed (fire of 1860). It was founded by old Peter Philip Skene, of colonial fame (34 years old) and was known as Skenesborough. When Burgoyne marched through, old Peter (Philip) picked up his traps and went too, and the town was shortly afterward known as Whitehall (1786). It was originally established as a trading station, being at the head of Lake Champlain, and here another interesting thing might be mentioned, since I apprehend that the fact is not generally known. Though Whitehall is at the southern end of Lake Champlain, it is at the head of Lake Champlain. That is the water of the lake flows from the mouth of Wood Creek north, and empties into the St. Lawrence. After the settlement of the colonial troubles, the village grew slowly for some years, when along in the sixties, it took a start and rapidly increased in population and importance. Today (1886) there about 5000 inhabitants to be exact 4,700. Considering the location of the village, this is certainly a goodly number of people. The village board of trustees consists of James Spencer, president, W.F. Bascom, A.C. Hapson, M. M. Manville, William Sinnott, and Thomas A. Paterson, clerk.

Within the past few years the village has grown considerable in size; new residences have been erected - always a sign of prosperity; new streets have been laid out and the lots along them command good prices; new enterprises have been established and the town has increased in activity generally.

A Manufacturing village (1886)

The industries of Whitehall are distinctively its own. With splendid power at their command, the transportation facilities and the location all tend to make the manufactories a success in an eminent degree. The fall of Wood Creek furnishes a power of about two hundred and fifty horse power, which is sufficient to run the largest mills. This power is constant, Wood Creek being a stream that never fails or gets too low to furnish good power. Manufactures have taken advantage of this and built up at Whitehall some large factories. Among them are Whitehall Lumber Co. Limited, which has built immense mills, where all kinds of heavy wood wash are turned out, Miner and Manville with their extensive mills for planing, sawing, and dressing lumber, and W.W. Cook's Sons' Mills, which are also extensive and deal in and handle great quantities of lumber.

To be continued.

The Whitehall Times October 16, 1986

Manufacturing Continued in 1886 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

All these firms have large lumber yards in connection with their mills, receiving the lumber direct from Canada and storing it in their yards until sold and sent south and east.

From Whitehall comes much of the lumber which supplies the famous lumber district of Albany. The lumber industry, in fact, forms one of the most important, if not the most important trade of Whitehall.

With Lake Champlain at its command toward the north, and the Champlain Canal toward the south, the trade has the cheapest, easiest and most satisfactory mode of transportation possible.

Every lumberman concedes the fact that waterway forms the most satisfactory road on which to ship lumber, both from its bulk and difficulty in handling. Whitehall thus possesses almost unequalled facilities for this trade and she has recognized the fact, as the extensive dealing in the article proves.

The Lake and Canal Traffic

The home office of the New York and Lake Champlain Transportation Company is located at Whitehall. This is the largest concern of the kind in the country, handling boats loaded with lumber almost exclusively.

On the lake it has a large number of tugs of sufficient capacity to haul heavy tows, which bring the boats down from the Canadian ports to Whitehall and then the canal boats are sent through the "great locks" into the Champlain Canal (three locks then in Whitehall), which is its terminus almost under the doors of the Whitehall Post Office (on lower Canal Street). Here the boats are still handled by the New York Lake Champlain Transportation Company, which owns a great number of mules and horses. The animals

are hitched to the boats and in the charge of men in the employ of the company continue down to Albany then they go on to New York with their cargoes.

The Delaware and Hudson Canal Company, whose northern railroad division connects the village with the world, has located at Whitehall quite extensive shops for repair. The property of the company is assessed at \$200,000, which goes for to show the value of their plant at that place. As with all towns on the line of this railroad, the one this sketch describes is largely dependent upon the road for its existence. The road is most fair in its dealings with the town, and running a large number of regular passenger expenses, freight trains through the village enhances its value to them, one gentleman, in speaking of its value of the road to Whitehall said, Why, we couldn't live without the Delaware and Hudson."

The Whitehall Times
September 23, 1876

September 18, 1876
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

J. H. Enright, a merchant tailor, opened a large and elegant stock of new fall clothes and cashmeres in the Arcade building, upstairs.

The Whitehall Times
February 2, 1878

January 1878
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Early stores in Whitehall changed locations as much as did many families moving in, May. On Jan. 15 George Brett sold at auction the hardware store of Hall and Kittredge to Willis Wood and Frank Hotchkiss for an inventory of \$5,128.27. At that time Hall and Kittredge carried on business nearer Saunders Street on now Main Street before they, tore down the old Chapin place at the corner of Division and Main Street, south, and erected the present building.

The Whitehall Times
March 2, 1978

Whitehall in February, 1878
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

J. J. Goodale filled the ice house with one foot thick and very clear ice.

Oliver Pardo, James Lusk, Jr., John McLaughlin and John Ackhurst were cutting .1000 tons of ice from the canal at the slip to ship out of town.

Ambrose Gilligan put in 30 cords of ice, the cakes being 19 inches in thickness.

Tramps were plenty, although not as numerous as last fall and winter.

The telephone installed in the telegraph building was a great curiosity Mr. Eddy and his assistants showed it off. A cornet solo from Plattsburgh came in loud and clear; regular conversation was heard from Plattsburgh, Ausable Forks and Ticonderoga; and the lady operator from Ticonderoga sang "Annie Laurie," words and music being heard plainly.

The old Hall House on Canal Street (burned in 1876) was being razed by its owner, the Merchants National bank. The piazzas and upper walls were removed. The owners were not inclined to build at that time.

Wood and Hotchkiss, hardware merchants at that time near the corner of Saunders and Canal Streets, placed two blackboards in front of their store on which they listed their new and sale goods. They were agents for the "celebrated" Rubicon Range. Their advertisement stated that on Feb. 28 the people could see the stove in operation. "Seeing Is Believing." On that day Mr. Keep, the patentee of the range, was in town. On Wednesday night at 10 p.m. he kindled a fire in the range with 46 pounds of coal. At 10 a.m. Thursday morning he filled the oven with bread. The stove was not re-coaled. A half barrel of flour was baked into 114 loaves, or 135 pounds. At 5 o'clock, 20 hours later, two pies were put in and in a few minutes were taken out baked nicely on both upper and lower crust. The fire was allowed to go out. The ashes were later sifted and 9¼ pounds of coal were still left.

Michael J. Myers was a large property holder in Whitehall, having inherited from his uncle who established the business corner called Myers Corner at Broad and Canal streets. M.J. Myers left Whitehall for Poughkeepsie. His property was sold at auction on Feb. 20. It included his home on Church Street, the Myer's Block (Barber's) with the wooden tenement behind the store, the lot above George Yule's (north of the block), the real estate on Center Street, and all other property in town.

J.J. Goodale purchased the meat market one door north of S.K. Griswold's store on Williams Street, kept for several months by Cornelius Donahue.

D.P. Nye started up the foundry on Williams street.

Mrs. William Simpson had a millinery shop in the Adams building (the Liberty Eatery).

Advertising cards during February, 1878, listed a surveyor, G. Thomas Hall; an Attorney, William H. Tefft; a doctor, William Smith; two druggists, J. R. Broughton and Lawrence Corbett; an insurance agency of Baldwin and Bascom; a transportation company, Stark's Northern Line; and a hair dresser, Mrs. Henry Coshburn.

The Whitehall Times
August 3, 1978

July 1878 in Whitehall
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In July 1878, economic conditions in Whitehall were at low ebb. For many years the "lumber yard" of the village had been a gold mine. The many docks and even the marshes along the lake shore had been extremely valuable, for here the lumber had been received from other parts to be planed and sent on its way.

The village had been a thriving one. People had employment and homes in the village were at a premium. Now there was a change. Many businesses had left and even stores were being bankrupted. The railroad had been finished to the north carrying products and much lumber business had been diverted to Burlington. As a result much of the floating trade had left the village. Much the same thing had happened to Glens Falls but the change was noted in time. The city had obtained new manufactures and was busy again. The editor of The Whitehall Times was urging the villagers in Whitehall to do the same thing.

Whitehall still had its advantages of transportation and water power for mills. The regulars were still in business but the need for at least 20 manufacturers was noted.

These "regulars" were the early business men of Whitehall whose names lead the business and social life of the town. The business ventures seem to have been centered in three sites in the village. These were on the lower west side of the village, along the east side of the harbor extending into the village along Williams street, and at the railroad station at the south.

At the depot were the steam mills of Polley, Osgood and Company with the machine shops of the railroad. There also was the blind and door factory of N. H. Ames and Company.

At the north along the lake was the extensive saw and planing business of W.W. Cooke and Son. This was on the east side and could be reached by land along 'Elbow Street that extended north from Williams Street. This concern had an extremely large lake frontage.

On the basin itself was James Handcock's machine shop with power reaching it by line from the west side. Percival, Wilson and Company Steam mill was located here as was Sutherland's boiler shop called Whitehall Iron Works.

Farther up Williams street was the foundry of D.P. Nye. Their grist mills had discontinued business at this time. Nearby was the steam wood working factory of Irwin and Wilson.

The machine shops of the New York and Lake Champlain Transportation Company were busy on the west side of the harbor.

This list seems to contain a large number of businesses. However, the number of employees in each could not have been large and the pinch of a depression was, being felt.

Oddly enough the editor of The Whitehall Times declared that the paper was never as prosperous as it was this month. Circulation was increasing and its advertising was

better than ever as new ads were coming in from around the county. Mr. Wilkins laid this to the provocative advertising that the paper carried on and the number of exchanges of quips that were contained in each issue. People around the county were aware of this lively paper.

The Whitehall Times
November 30, 1978

October 1878
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Myron H. Bartholomew has just added a manufacturing department to his boot and shoe establishment. He has four good workmen in his employ and the style and quality of boots and shoes turned out by him are first class. A Heavy Calcutta Kip boot is made to order for \$3.50.

Davis & Holleran, the dyers, located In the Policy Building on Broad Street are meeting with success here.

The Whitehall Times
December 14, 1978

Merchants in 1878
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Historical Society of Whitehall located sites of early businesses in its Christmas program. These are some of the ones The Whitehall Times described during the Christmas season of that year.

The Merchants bank, on the corner of Saunders and Canal Streets, was listed as one of three first class institutions in the village.

Across Saunders at the corner stood the Wood and Hotchkiss Hardware Store with a large assortment of crockery, shelf goods, and chinaware suitable for holiday gifts, and stoves. This store preceded the later Wood and Hotchkiss store they built at the corner of Division and Canal Streets.

The second store south from the corner of Division was the store of Myron H. Bartholomew, who was “also up with the times. He is the youngest merchant and his manner of doing business also stamps him as a candidate for success. He has a very choice stock of boots, shoes, hats and caps and his prices are among the lowest offered.” -

The store on the corner of Division and Canal also belonged to Charles Chapin. Here Charles had a full line of groceries, meats and our citizens “know this old merchant to be one worthy of patronage.”

Across Division Street at the corner was the National Bank, the second institution that had money deposited all solid and safe.

In the Iron Front building, S. Englander & Co. kept an extensive assortment of ready made clothing. They "are prepared to receive a call from Santa Claus or any other person. This assortment is complete. Mr. Powell, one of the fitters, is also a custom cutter."

Next to this Iron Front, in the second Iron Front, was the store of J.R. Broughton. He had candles of every conceivable quality and at all prices. He had a large assortment of gift books, daily papers, magazines and weeklies, for he had bought out the newsroom of. C. Adams. "We would say his counters contain all the assortment that old Santa Claus and his lieutenants would want."

The third bank was called the Old National Bank, the third institution where old Santa Claus could deposit his money without losing it by the bank's bursting.

Then came Luke Carrington's store which had a splendid assortment of boots and shoes. His store "is pleasant and his shelves are always loaded with specialties in his line. He always has a splendid assortment of hats, caps and ladies furs."

At the corner of Broad and Canal streets was Wait's Store. "We can recommend to old Santa Claus Wait's mammoth establishment of ready made clothing. He also has an extensive line of carpets, oilcloths and ladies fur goods."

Two doors north was H. A. Griswold's Jewelry Store. "He keeps a line of jewelry, watches, clocks and silverware on hand at all times. His store is attractive and his prices are as low as goods can be sold."

Over this store was the office of Dr. William Smith, "who could get up first class work on the mouth. He could construct teeth that could frighten any boarding house keeper about dinner time."

To the north of Griswold was another jewelry store, that of Charles Pike. This was before he bought out the Buel Spoon Company in 1885. "Pike is a merchant who has made his business and the wants of the public a study. Pike would be happy to sell Santa Claus all he desires."

Farther north of Pike's was H.T. Gaylord at the old stand, corner of Clinton Avenue. He is one of the oldest and most reliable merchants in town. He keeps a general assortment of dry goods."

Across the street in the Flatiron building was J.H. Sullivan. They had been so successful their business compelled them to build. The new store was in progress on the site of the Hall House.

R.M. Witherbee was in the Polley block in one of the several locations around town that he occupied. "He is polite and that accounts for the popularity which he has earned among his patrons."

In the same area was J.P. Blakeslee's store with a clothing store. Over him was Baker, the photographer, "an artist who takes good pictures."

The Whitehall Times
September 13, 1979

August 1879
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

“ Nothing is new under the sun.” A hundred years ago pre-made buildings were sold. Irwin and Wilson was a large firm in the village that produced many products of wood. In this August they built a house at their shop for David Sinnott on Morris Hill and assembled it at his place. They had a contract to build a house for Mr. Emerson of Yonkers. All the frame and ornamental work was being done in Whitehall to be removed to Yonkers to be put up.

The Whitehall Times
May 4, 1978

(No Title)
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

One of the enterprises of the village was the cracker bakery of John Jones and Son. This firm made Oyster and Boston Crackers which are the best of the kind. The crackers are made by machinery and Messrs. Jones and Son are securing large orders, not only from the home merchants but from surrounding towns. Our citizens need not be surprised to discover that Messrs Jones and Son have struck a chord that will soon demonstrate whether manufacturing will pay here. (The Washington County Directory locates this business on Clinton Avenue.)

A hen house belonging to Dennis Harrigan on New Street was burned about 1 a. m.

W. H. Murray moved his grocery store into Myers block, one door north of the Old National Bank. The bank building is now owned by H. Osborne.

J. W. Eddy was exhibiting a telephone at the telegraph office, made by the American Telephone Company. The instrument was connected at Plattsburgh, Port Henry and Rutland. Piano music from Port Henry is distinctly heard at this place.

A. Fadden moved his harness shop into the Gilligan Building on Broad Street, one door north of High street.

Ed Pratt moved into, the store lately occupied as a restaurant Pierce and Cook. He fitted the store up in good style and would be happy to see his old customers. (This is another business that was in several locations about the village.)

William H. Eason, the popular barber at the Grand Union hotel, placed in his shop a new and splendid chair of an improved design.

A sale of the Northern Transportation Line was effected April 2. The new company would be known as the New York and Lake Champlain Transportation company. J. L. N. Stark was the president and R. H. Cook the secretary and treasurer.

William Cody moved into the building on West Street formerly used as a school house. This was School 17 formerly owned by E. Proudfit, one of the purchasers of Skene's lands in Whitehall.

A letter to the editor from Carl Von Schmidt solicited funds of \$500,000 for capital, to start the manufacturing of a "Pocket Derrick." This apparatus would instantly lift any fat woman weighing not over 490 pounds from the ground and place her in a buggy or lumber wagon or on the platform of a railroad car. For ladies over 290 pounds a self-dumping apparatus could be attached at a small additional cost which would gracefully place the lady in her seat in the carriage. (How conductors, coachmen and small men would hail this ingenious invention of the 19th century.)

The Whitehall Times Building has housed many industries through its lifetime. This latest one unearthed is the announcement that C. C. Kettridge and Co., opened a shop in Nye's building opposite the Opera House where the disinfecting garbage box would be manufactured for the New York market. Mr. Seymour, who was in charge of the village artesian well, would be in charge of the shop.

The Whitehall Times **June 22, 1978**

The Barber Shop **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Mrs. June Tracy of Pike Brook provided these reminiscences concerning the little building recently razed on Broadway:

Did you notice the small house on the corner of Broadway and Second Avenue was torn down the week of May 22? To my knowledge its last occupant was Jack Adams who won the honor in the local yard beautification contest some years ago. He had lovely roses.

The building was originally built for a shop for the barber Carl Albert Choppy, deceased, who moved there from a larger place on the corner of Broadway and First Avenue. He was the son of Louis and Victoria Choppy, married Rose Gordon, and had several children, one of whom is Victor Choppy, still living. Besides barbering, Carl had a talent for writing songs, some of which were published. My grandmother, Mrs. Ed Whalen, had the sheet music. She played the tunes on the piano and we all sang them when I was a child.

I mentioned to my mother, Cecelia Marnes, that the house was being torn down and she recalled vividly what had been there when she was young — a large elegant house with a cupola on top, tall windows that went down to the porch floor, and a huge double

door. On the fan light over the door in gold letters was printed the name Brassaw.” She could remember the two old brothers who lived there.

Perhaps the site will now sport a house in the modern style with a broad roof, picture window, and blank door.

(Mrs. Tracy is at present listing births, marriages and deaths from The Whitehall Times of the late 1800’s. This will help in genealogy work as the town records started in 1881. Bear stories of the area are intriguing her as she reads the newspapers.)

The Whitehall Times

August 10, 1978

(No Title)

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The property of the Artesian Well Company was sold for the benefit of the Gibbs and Steratt Manufacturing Company. It was bid in by James Hanock for \$315.

Mrs. Bruit enlarged and fitted her restaurant at the depot. The building was turned one fourth way round and a piazza built on the east side. She sold nuts, crackers, cigars, pies, cakes and lemon beer. Dr. Bruit could be found on hand.

Because of too much credit outstanding the grocery of John F. Clark was closed. It was hoped he could soon open up business again.

The Whitehall Times

February 1, 1979

January 1879 in Whitehall

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Capt. George Belden of Putnam found a deposit of decayed brom hemitite, valuable for, use in paint. He rented a saw mill on Mill Brook in Putnam where he planned to grind the material. The location was about a mile and a half from Lake Champlain.

The Whitehall Times

April 26, 1979

April 1879, Moving Month

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

April used to be moving day, not only for families but also for businesses. This constant change makes it difficult to locate stores over the years, as the locations continually moved. Numbers on buildings also are a headache.

These are some changes within the block, from Division Street north to the present Barber's store in April, 1879,

L.B. Manville moved from the store one door north of the First National Bank (Edward Williams) to two doors north of Saunders Street. He named his new store The Red Front. He sold hay, oats, corn, plaster cement and lime. At the time he was a young merchant and evidently didn't mind moving his stock from a place he had held only since 1877.

Lowell and Mitchell moved into the location vacated by L.B. Manville. This was a store carried on by experienced men in the men's clothing business. They bought ready-made clothing in New York but also hired Patrick Moriarty who did custom work.

T. S. MacLachlin came from No. 5 Dayton block (the long business block north of Clinton Avenue) into the Arcade Building, which was the second building North of the First National bank and recently occupied by J. Straus. Mr. MacLachlin was a hardware merchant. He painted the three stories and placed stoves on the third floor, a large carpet room on the second and used the first to sell shelf goods, heavy crockery and hardware. He had an elevator to raise and lower goods. Each advertisement claimed the merchant would sell at the lowest price, very cheap.

Julius L. Straus of the Reliable Store moved next door north into the Griswold's Iron Front store from the Arcade building. He sold ladies' and children's furnishing goods, trimmings and the finest line of men's, youth's and boy's clothing in Whitehall.

Lawrence Corbett established his drug store in 1856 but in 1879 decided to move into the Iron Front building occupied by Englander and company. 'Larry' expanded in "one of the pleasantest rooms in Whitehall" his stock of pure drugs, medicines, oils, paints, glass, stationery and confectionery.

Into L. Corbett's place in the Arcade building moved Miller and Snyder. This business was successor to L. Miller's, who had a harness manufacturing center. The partners planned to extend the making of leather goods for patronage of Whitehall and surrounding towns. With their large capital they purchased a large stock of clothing for all, boots and shoes, trunks and satchels, umbrellas and leather.

L. H. Carrington and John Earl had a boot and shoe store in the Old National Bank building, north of the two Iron Front stores. In 1879 John Earl moved his insurance agency into this store.

Dr. C.S. Hanks settled his dental rooms upstairs in the Arcade building.

All this activity was contained within a short business block inside the time period of April. 1879.

The Whitehall Times
June 21, 1979

Whitehall, May 1879
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The first tow of lumber arrived May 13. It was expected that 50,000,000 feet of lumber would be sent through from Canada this season. The first boat of the summer from the south arrived the same day loaded with coal for R.H. Cook and Company. On May 19 13 boats of lumber arrived in a tow from Canada. Captain W.M. McGlue boats with Turks Island salt and salt fish arrived May 21.

Hancock's foundry started up under charge of Cross and Hjortsberg to cast any pattern brought to them.

The Whitehall docks for unloading lumber 1879 were declared ample for Canadian trade. There were A.H. Griswold's with 1,500 feet; George Brett's with 1,500 feet; railroad's with 3,000; H.T. Gaylord's 1,000; W.W. Cook's and Sons' 3,000; Burleigh, Weed & Norton, 6,800; Shepard, Davis and Company's 2,000; S. Cook, George Brett and others on the canal 2,000. For several years past lumber from Canada had been mainly shipped.

The Whitehall Times
October 18, 1979

September 1879
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Times do not change so much in some locations. Evidently the First National Bank building that was located at the corner of Division and Main (formerly Canal) Streets always had a store in the basement. This entry was in the Times: Eason returned to his new quarters under the First National Bank where his customers will find a beautiful new floor to walk upon. Eason proposed to add a bathroom to his shop. (The item didn't say what kind of business he conducted.)

Wood stoves were popular a hundred years ago, as shown by this item: Wood and Hotchkiss, the enterprising hardware merchants, are doing a large stove trade. They sold 53 Argand parlor heaters last year and they anticipate even a larger sale of this favorite this year. The firm are live men and they are justly entitled to the success which is crowning their efforts as merchants. (At this time these merchants were located at the site of the Gray Building. Later they constructed the building at the south corner of Main and Division Streets.)

The Whitehall Times
October 25, 1979

Whitehall, October 1879
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Ready-made houses and parts were constructed in Whitehall. Joseph Wilson, the well known builder, went to Yonkers to put up a dwelling for C.H. Emerson. The house was finished here, ready to set up in that city.

The Western Union Telegraph company was putting up new telegraph poles. "The poles are so thick in our village that a wild deer could not pass through our streets without drawing in its horns."

John Jones and Son were making excellent coaches. (A Jones Building was located south of the present American Legion, building.)

The Whitehall Times
June 26, 1980

(No Title)
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Mrs. G. O. Teasdale very accomplished and well recommend opened a dancing school in Griswold Hall. She instructed both juvenile and adults at different hours.

The Whitehall Times
September 18, 1980

September 1880
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Ed Pittinger had opened a new furniture store in Davis Block on Broad Street. It was well stocked with a complete assortment of furniture of all kinds.

Messer Moore and Wilcox of the Grand Union Hotel were doing a good business. They kept a good hotel and everyone who stopped there was pleased.

Miss S.W. McClenchy offered for sale her millinery establishment as she expected to retire from business. She had established a successful trade and the opportunity to engage in business was a good one to any practical milliner.

The Whitehall Times
March 8, 1979

Ice Harvest in 1880
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The ice men were jubilant. It was rumored that a quarter million tons of ice would be stacked on the shores of Lake Champlain if the weather continued cold for ten days.

Warm winds prevented ice in the Hudson River in this year. This gave a golden opportunity for places to the north to reap almost a fortune supplying ice to the places in the south, including New York City. -

In and very near Whitehall, 11 local companies, some newly formed, gathered at South Bay. They employed nearly 500 men and scores of teams. The work began about mid-February. Men idling on the streets were hired and received \$1.50 a day. Machinery for hoisting the blocks, ploughs for cutting (Skenesborough Museum has two machines for scoring and cutting) and pikes for pulling the large cakes arrived by express.

Lumber firms sold the makings for the ice houses which lined the shore. The scene was not limited to Whitehall. The same occurred at Dresden, Ticonderoga, Benson Landing and Addison Junction. It was expected that over \$50,000 would benefit Whitehall alone in wages.

The names of the ice companies hold interest in that they are those of the business men of Whitehall who led in industries. Some came from outside. The Knickerbocker Ice Company of Albany contracted for much of the ice cut.

Name	Tons	men	destination
Waters, McFarren & Co.	2,200	15	Knickerbocker
Holister & Temple (Granville)	17,000	20	Knickerbocker
Sampson & Co (Albany)	10,000	75	not for sale
Dates & Prouty	2,000	40	not sold
Ryan & Gilligan	2,000	25	not sold
Bartholomew Brothers	500	15	not sold
Temple & Co.	just started	20	...
J. Hurtubis	400	15	...
Jesse L. Eddy (3 brothers)	8,000	75	Knickerbocker
Mealey (Albany)	1,000	20	
Watkins, Durkee, McMillan	1,200		
Sullivan, Ryan, Livingston	700		
Lemon Barrett (at Dresden)	3,000		Knickerbocker
A.P. Cook, H.G. Burleigh (at Benson)	3,000		
Wm. Bartholomew & Truffy Hurtubis	1,500		
McLachlin & Clemons (at Dresden)	1,000		Hoteling, Albany
McLachlin & Polley (at Dewey's Bridge)	1,000		
R.M. Witherbee (at Ticonderoga)	2,000		

Besides the men working for wages for themselves and for their teams, others benefited, as happens when industry comes to a community. Men received their wages at the Grand Union Hotels were making money and stores were filled with customers.

With the ice cut and stacked or housed, there came the problem of transportation. At least 1500 canal boats were necessary to take the ice to New York City and south.

This meant more profits for the boat owners and men who worked for them. The ice harvest of 1880 was a boon to Whitehall.

The Whitehall Times **January 24, 1880**

Ice Harvest in 1880 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

In 1880 and 1890 ice was a very important crop in Whitehall. In 1880 the harvest began in February on Lake Champlain and South Bay, mainly in South Bay as the north wind broke up the ice on the lake, driving it into the bays along the shore.

It was estimated that from the surface of the scalping of every pond and lake in Saratoga, Warren and Washington counties that over \$40,000 would be expended in getting the supply for the city market.

South Bay was the scene of much activity with eleven ice gathering companies. These were employing nearly 500 men and scores of teams. It was not only the ice cutting men that were making a profit in wages; there was the sale of machinery for harvesting, ploughs for cutting pikes for pulling. The lumber firms were drawn on for material for ice houses and carpenters had to make them. Hotels put up the out of town men and the stores were filled with customers, especially on payday. Later the boatmen would be enjoying a bonanza.

Parties came from Albany, Granville and New York. Local companies were formed rapidly. A large number of men, idling about the streets were put to work. The shore of South Bay was lined with ice houses. Besides there was great activity at Dresden, Ticonderoga, Benson Landing and Addison Junction harvesting the one quarter million tons expected on Lake Champlain. It was estimated that Whitehall would benefit by at least \$50,000. The wages of the men would bring at least \$20,000.

The names of most of the firms on South Bay with the quantity purchased by each and the number of men employed were: Waters, McFarran & Co. - 220 tons, 15 men, sold to Knickerbacker Ice Co. at Albany; Hollister and Temple - 17,000 tons, 20 men, sold to Knickerbacker; Sampson and Co. - 10,000 tons. 75 men, not for sale; Oates and Prouty, 2,000 tons - 40 men, not sold. Ryan and Gilligan - 2,000 tons, 25 men, not sold; Bartholomew Bros. - 500 tons, 15 men, not sold; Temple and Company, 20 men, just started; T. Hurtibis - 400 tons, 15 men; Jesse L. Eddy and Co. - 6,000 tons. 75 men, 12 teams, sold to Knickerbacker; Mealey and Co. - 1,000 tons, 20 men.

Other companies had just started. At Dresden Lemon Barrett had gathered about 2,000 tons and at Benson Landing. Messrs A. P. Cooke and H. G. Burleigh had gathered over 3,000 tons.

The following week the Whitehall Times added these names: Sullivan, Ryan and Livingston - 700 tons; Watkin, Duehan and McMillan - 1200 tons; all on South Bay. Then there were McLachlin and Clemons at Dresden - 1,000 tons; McLachlin and Policy at Dewey's Bridge - 1,000 tons.

The Knickerbacker Ice company was so satisfied with the way the ice was housed and stacked that it planned to let the product remain until the last, believing that it would keep better than any other they had purchased.

This story of ice harvest was repeated it, the next tenth year with a few variations.

The Whitehall Times

January 31, 1980

Ice Harvest in 1880

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Lake Champlain Valley and Its Tributaries About the Only Available Ice Producing District in the State. - The Kennebec River in Maine About the Only Other Available Source of Supply in the United States. Conservative Whitehall Had All the

Rush and Excitement of a New Mining Town on the Frontier. All Gone Crazy with an Ice Work in their Craniums.”

These were headlines of a scrapbook entry labeled 1890, but a comparison of the details for the one reported in 1880 lead me to believe it is the same boom in the year of 1880. But there are some additional of that famous ice harvest.

Other parts of New York State had ice but they were at such a distance from railroad tracks that the expense of loading the ice was too high to make the venture profitable. Lake Champlain was accessible both by cars and boats. This double mode of transportation lowered the rate of freight.

An enterprising lad sold for \$150 the ice of a pond that had not yet frozen over. Cooke and Sons controlled an immense field of ice around the island. Newcomb, Jillson, Manville, Sawyer, and Stevens had a large stack from the field around the Transportation Lines docks. A little farther down the lake was the field of Messrs. Gayuneau, Blanchard and Baudoin. Mutual Benefit Ice Company had two slides, one on each side of the coal trestle where they could load directly on the cars. They staked out a field nearly a mile long and cut a canal the whole length and towed the ice through the canal to the slides.

The City Ice Company came to Whitehall with a carload of men, a car load of horses and one of tools. There was hardly room for any passengers except the ice men.

The Mutual Ice Company planned to put up a permanent ice house. Farmers were laying out slides like the ones on the Loomis and the Emerson Soules. The Tracy meadows were being used.

Other operators were O'Neil and E. W. Skeels of Hiram Skeels and Greenough. Honorable C.W. Sheldon of Fort Ann and Gil Gorman and Company of New York were also putting up a boarding house. Charles S. Fenton and Company of Fort Ann was putting up six combined houses. Garrigan had a very eligible site selected on the Collins farm and a fine field staked out but was waiting to make satisfactory contract.

However, with all the stacks and ice houses and ice operators, it was not expected that the great demand of the state would be met. This was the year that only the Lake Champlain Valley produce ice for the markets as far south as New York City)

The Whitehall Times
March 6, 1980

February 1880
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Leading businessmen advertised their wares in the weekly paper. For the beginning of the 80's these were the leaders: Baldwin & Bascom, Federal Insurance; Lawrence Corbett, Druggist & Apothecary; R. M. Witherbee, Groceries & Provisions; M. H. Bartholomew, Boots & Shoes J. R. Broughton & Son, Drugs & Medicines; O.A. Manville, Stationery.

Lemon Barrett, Groceries & Provisions; Powell & Mitchell, Leading Clothiers; Wood & Hotchkiss, Hardware; Julius L. Straus, Clothing; L. M. Manville, Groceries & Provisions; Myron H. Bartholomew, Gentlemen's Clothing and Leather Goods.

Chas. B. Pike, Jeweler; P. W. Barry, Baking Powder; T.S. McLachlin, Hardware & Dishes; S. K. Griswold, Groceries & Domestic Goods; Jesse L. Eddy, Insurance; L.H. Carrington, Boots and Shoes, Hats and Caps; H. T. Gaylord, Dry Goods and Groceries.

The Whitehall Times
March 13, 1980

Leap Frog, March 1880
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

"Leap Frog" Charles Chaplin moved his stock of goods into the store occupied by O'Neil & Quigley who moved into the store occupied by Ed Skeels who took the store vacated by Charles Chaplin. Lemon Barrett moved into one of Chapin's stores.

The new Hayes & Falardo sash and door factory was operating, being quite an addition to the place. The item neglected to locate the factory: -

L. B. Manville added a perpetual hay press to his business.

Closing exercises of T. J. Leonard's school were held in the old White church in North Whitehall; Feb. 27. This was the Congregational

John Brett sold his stock of groceries to George Knight (the American Legion building) and added new goods at once. William Sinnott moved his large grocery and provisions store from the Renois Building to the Spencer Block just south of John Brett's Store. He then had three stores. His career was very successful. A. M. Burdett moved into the Renois Block.

The Whitehall Times
August 28, 1980

August 1880
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The sash and door factory of Hays and Falardo was in operation.

Powell and Mitchell set up their Temple of Fashion in the store of their predecessor

S. Englander who departed for Glens Falls. It was located at 63 and 67 Canal Street. Street numbers of the period are difficult to straighten out. At that time J. H. Sullivan was located at 85 and 87 Canal Street (Pippo's) while J. H. Carrington boots and shoes, two blocks north, was 79 Canal Street.

Broad Street was a busy street in 1880. R. M. Witherbee grocery was at 22; J. P. Blakeslee's Dry Goods at 8; Follet's Dry Goods. at 6; with S. C. Bull's Insurance over it;

H. T. Gaylord's with boat furnishing at 21.

James Williamson, the boat builder, finished a first class boat on 3 August for R. M. Witherbee. He in turn sold it to Capt. George Allen for \$3200. During the winter Mr. Williamson had kept 28 men on his payroll turning out several boats. In dull seasons he employed 15 men.

Charles Lotrace, the row boat builder, painted the steamer Independent. The wheels were black striped with gilt, white and orange.

The rest of the running part was painted vermillion, striped with gilt and black. It looked beautiful."

The Whitehall Times
September 18, 1980

September 1880
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Ed Pittinger had opened a furniture store in Davis Block on Broad Street. It was well stocked with a complete assortment of furniture of all kinds.

Miss S. W. McClenchy offered for sale her millinery establishment as she expected to retire from business. She had established a successful trade and the opportunity to engage in business was a good one to any practical milliner.

On 15 September James Williamson launched his eighth canal boat built since November last. The new boat was a large class grain boat, built for R. H. Cook. Mr. Cook sold it to Captain Thomas Smith who named it the John Barrett. It was one of the best canal boats built this season.

The Whitehall Times
April 2, 1981

June 1881
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The usual changes of business occurred. Charles Pike moved just south of J. R. Broughtons store.

Alvah Bartholomew bought the store of M.H. Bartholomew.

Wheeler and Wilcox bought the stock of L. B., Manville and would stay at the Red Front.

The Whitehall Times
May 14, 1981

May 1881
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

From The Whitehall Times columns comes the announcement of a new business in the village: "Charles Quigley has established a business in the place for the sale of Hinckle's Celebrated Sparkling Cataract Lager, Saratoga High Rock spring water and soda water.

This lager has a reputation second to no other. It is pure, unadulterated and of a delicious flavor. It is a substitute for poisonous, spiritual and lager beer; as a substitute has done more to help the cause of temperance than any other agents.

The sale of these cooling summer drinks has become large and Mr. Quigley has earned a reputation as an honest and enterprising dealer. He has secured the services of P. H. Corbett and Austin Hill, and the work of bottling is carried on with neatness, as pure water runs into the place, and all bottles are carefully cleaned before being filled.

Mr. Quigley will be glad fill all orders entrusted to him and all goods not as represented may be returned. We take great pleasure in recommending Mr. Quigley to our citizens as a square dealer at all times."

Mr. Quigley placed a fairly large advertisement in this issue of The Times He added that it was the most popular lager now in use and warranted to be free from adulteration. He promised all goods would be delivered at the home of the citizens.

Mr. Quigley's place of business was at the corner of Division and Canal (Main) Streets. This was in the Chaplin Block that stood on that corner before 1898, when Wood and Hotchkiss built the present building that has housed the business of Doren, Fragnoli and now NAPA. There must be bottles with Mr. Quigley's name on them around some where.

Another business that opened this same time, in 1881, was John Brett's new grocery store. It is the story of a senior citizen who tried retirement from trade for one

year but found that a life of activity had not fitted him to remain in idleness. “He has therefore concluded to again throw his banner to the breeze — and reopen his old and well known store on Canal Street. He has purchased a new and complete assortment of groceries and provisions and he proposes to sell goods at prices that will astonish the natives. Chief Brett’s return to the active duties of life will certainly lengthen his days upon earth. He invited all his old friends to call upon him.”

John Brett was born in Ireland in 1834; in 1858 he was listed among the business men of Whitehall. He owned a stone building on the site of the present American Legion home. In 1860 the building was replaced with the present brick structure with the date in an oval on the facade.

The top floor was rented to the Masonic Order. The ceiling still bears that organization’s symbol. Besides the groceries, the store had feed to sell, which was carried to the upper floor through the door on the second story front of the building. The building is on the National Register of Historic places as is NAPA’s.

The Whitehall Times

May 14, 1980

May 1881

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

P.W. Barry was one of Whitehall’s druggists. In 1881 his store was in the Dayton Block (Commercial hotel site). At this time he added a grocery department.

The Whitehall Times

April 8, 1982

Whitehall in 1882

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In the last week of the year E.W. Hall received an order from New York for 500 tons or 3,000 barrels of his Hatch Hill red slate paint. Their factory was on the Bar.

The Whitehall Times

June 17, 1882

Whitehall in May 1882

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In the 1880’s Whitehall merchants boasted that they were famous for selling goods cheap. Everything was sold at small profit — groceries, drug items, hardware, boots and shoes, hats and caps. Buyers came to the village from “way down the lake” and from

towns in Vermont to make purchases. Whitehall merchants went regularly to New York City to make purchases of their stocks. Many of the businesses of 1882 have disappeared from the scene. These are a few of them.

John Knight was now supplying hot peanuts to his customers. (Evidently he had a peanut stand.)

Whitehall will live. This is decided. The Water Power Company was an assured success. Thanks to J. S. Potter, S. K. Griswold, H. R. Wait and others. A new era will open soon.

Mrs. Henry Coshburn can make stitches, braids or frizzes to order and save the trouble of going to Troy or Albany to have your frizzes dressed. (Her shop was at the north end of the tunnel. She could color faded hair, root hair combings, and dress frizzes over at ten cents per set).

Mrs. E. P. Billett had just returned from New York with an elegant new stock of spring goods. Her display in the showcases was superb with everything in exquisite taste. Mrs. Billett and Miss Lotties had a large line of millinery and fancy goods in all the new novelties of the season. Crape and crape work was a specialty at 85 Canal Street.

George Knight opened a harness and wagon shop in the building three doors south of J. H. Sullivan's store (at that time on Broad Street). He had a fine assortment of harnesses and all kinds of trimming pertaining to the line. He kept a large assortment of buggies and wagons selling at popular prices. Henry Knight was in charge of the store.

Miss Helen Knight had just returned from New York with a new assortment of goods. Her shop was at 3 South Canal Street, which was south of present Riverside Park.

S. K. Griswold was in New York after new spring goods. He had the grocery and dry goods store on 4 & 10 Williams Street.

F. F. Follett was going to New York May 10 after new goods for his dry goods store.

The new cheese factory began operations 8 May.

Misses Spencer and McDonough asked the ladies to call and inspect their elegant assortment of millinery goods with which they had just returned from New York. Their shop was in the Anderson Hall block.

E. W. Hall's new red paint mill was prospering. It was running to its utmost capacity and orders were flowing in. He had just loaded a canal boat for the south.

The Whitehall Lumber Company had moved its business office across the road, opposite the old site. The front of the building now faced north.

The Grand Union Hotel (Chase's) changed proprietors, getting C. B. Pease from the Port Henry Lee House to be assisted by his brother, H. W. Pease.

S. A. Billett began the manufacture of Vienna bread and rolls. A sample of the former showed that Mr. Billett hit the recipe just right.

The Whitehall Times
August 12, 1982

Whitehall in July, 1882
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

During the mid-80's Wood and Hotchkiss had a store two doors north from Saunders Street on Canal (Main) Street. In July, 1882, Richard Chapin, Jr., began tearing down his two stores south of Division Street on Canal to erect a hardware store for these two merchants, 42 feet front and 70 feet deep. A.C. Hopson builder, had the work.

In the demolition of the stairway of the second floor an old time sign was uncovered — "Southmaid, Whitehaller Printing Office." This news item conjectured that the Whitehaller was the forerunner of The Whitehall Times. It, however, was in existence in 1849 while The Whitehall Times, according to the mast head of the paper, was successor of the American Sentinel established in 1855.

When we look at a quart of strawberries priced today at \$2.58, we can marvel at 1882's price of plentiful field strawberries at 40 cents a pail. Miss Mary Barnes picked from 50 to 80 quarts of strawberries a day after the season opened.

Memories of ice cream parlors where we sat down to a plateful of the sweet! Miss C.J. Burdett served such in her parlor on Church Street - or by the quart. She also served frozen fruits, "delicious, cool and palatable," supplied to order.

The Whitehall Times
August 19, 1982

Whitehall in August, 1882
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Walter D. Travis purchased the hardware and house furnishing business of T.S. McLachlin. His motto was "My goods will be purchased for cash and sold for cash." His store was in the Arcade Building. Mr. McLachlin "went west."

On 16 August, the thermometer reached 102 degrees in the shade. "It was a sizzling hot day."

Sage's sash and door factory was employing 27 hands and turning out much first class work. On Friday, Aug. 4, the mill had turned out 247 doors. Consumption of lumber reached 5,000 feet and the company desired 20 additional hands. Goods were shipped to eastern markets, there being a demand for all the factory produce. The mill was in charge of Alex Williamson. Two years before, A. Paro had to leave Whitehall because there was no work. Now there was plenty of work as people were building and repairing.

The work of preparing soda water and ginger ale was simple for Charles Quigley. His temperance drinks were the very best made and he was supplying neighboring communities with them. His business was at the corner of Division and Canal (Main) Streets.

Wood and Hotchkiss added furniture to their hardware business. They stocked the Martin store three doors south of the post office with a large supply on 1 August worth

\$3,000-\$4,000, all the latest novelties in the furniture line. This was before their store at the corner of Canal and Division.

Some items for sale in the stores this month, 1882, that we do not see advertised in present day papers:

Moirs at S. K. Griswold: the Cottage Range coal stove at Walter D. Travia; cool sarsaparilla at Charles Quigley; harnesses and cutters at Miller & Synder; crape and crape goods at Mrs. E.P. Billett; hair combings at Mrs. Henry Coshburn.

The Whitehall Times **September 9, 1882**

September 1882 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

On 18 September the Whitehall Lumber Company began the demolition of the Cain Sailloft and Towing Company's barn on the north side of the slip on Broad Street. The company proposed to erect a new fireproof mill on the site

Familiar names in the business life of Whitehall were noted in that T. A. Paterson was engaged to take charge of Wood & Hotchkiss furniture store in the old Martin building on Broad Street.

A new lumber firm was organized, the Miller and Manville, S. H. Miner and Mark M. Manville. It was to occupy the yards and office of the late George Brett and deal in Canadian lumber. William Havens, long an associate of Mr. Brett, was to have charge.

James Pardo purchased the goods and good will of Henry Thomas in the grocery line to carry on the business at No. 9 Broad Street. (For short time there was a Pardo Street in Whitehall.).

The Whitehall Times **October 7, 1882**

Whitehall in October, 1882 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Mr. Wait was running a grand panorama. His picture, placed in front of his mammoth store, attracted great attention. By the way, he had the largest store of clothing, boots, shoes, hats, caps, gents furnishing goods, and carpets ever placed on his shelves and counters (Barber's Clothiers).

Sam Carmel left here with a wagon load of clothing to be sold to the denizens of the North Woods. Joseph Carmel was in New York after new goods. The Karmel, as written in its advertisement, was a "one price emporium", in Griswold's Iron Front Store building.

Owen McGowan and P.A. Broughton formed a partnership under the firm name of Owen M. McGowan and Company and carried on the grocery trade at the corner of Canal (Broadway) and Gilmore Streets.

Green and Rock, "two strapping young men," opened a new meat market one door south of John Brett's store, now American Legion building. A specialty of the firm was Chicago beef

The Whitehall Times **October 21, 1882**

The Whitehall Lumber Company **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

In The Whitehall Times of 11 October 1882 was the description of the new steam mill to be erected. The site of the mill was that of the just demolished building on Broad Street near the slip. It would have a brick floor in the brick building. Its length would be 150 feet by 40 feet in width with an engine room, a boiler room, and the planing mill proper.

The mill was to be 25 feet 4 inches in the clear; the boiler room, 16 feet 8 inches; and the engine room 13 feet by 37 feet 4 inches in the clear. There would be two doors and three windows in the engine room and 10 openings in each side of the mill opposite the machines. Each opening would be five feet six inches in width circular overhead. Opening and doors would be protected by corrugated iron doors which with brick walls, cornices, and floor together with a slate roof would be fireproof. The roof was to be trussed, making it self-supporting. The truss timbers would support the line shaft to which all machinery would be attached. It was intended to connect the line shaft of the machine shop with that of the mill. The machine shop was a separate building. In this way one engine would run the machinery of both.

When completed the building would be one of the finest and most substantial buildings for the purpose for which it was erected in Northern New York and would reflect a great credit on the energy and public spirit of the company causing it to be built. It would be under the supervision of A.C. Hopson, the prolific builder of Whitehall, who prepared the plans. The machinery would be arranged and put up by "the tried and trusty" machinist Chandler Baldwin.

The Sanford map of 1915 shows this building complex. The buildings are labeled as not in operation but with a night watchman. The northern section is outlined for a burned section. The map of 1916 is labeled as not in operation but the burned section evidently had been removed for the building outlines are much shorter.

In some reports Whitehall has been called a “lumber-a yard” as evidenced in a picture of 1858. The industry started in Skenesborough with Philip Skene’s sawmill of 1766 and went through four phases which will take further research to tell the story.

The Whitehall Times
November 25, 1982

November 1882
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Potatoes were shipped from Whitehall in large amounts. Evidently it was a collection point. Ambrose Gilligan shipped 8000 bushels on 15 November to New York on Hugh Dougherty. He was loading the Anna Gilligan and on 20 November shipped 5200 bushels on Wilder Kinnery. Captain John Read of Benson sent out a load.

Pete Renois had a cracker making business in his bake shop behind the Renois Building. A fire destroyed the building, the cracker machines, cutters and fixtures on 29 October along with 75 barrels of flour. (People had insurance, but generally only half coverage.)

The Whitehall Times
December 23, 1982

Christmas Advertising in 1882
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The advertisements continued in the week before Christmas. A Life Insurance policy will make a very suitable gift for Christmas. If you need a policy of your house or furniture there are three agencies where you can be dealt with honestly: W. F. Bascom, S. C. Bull, and John C. Earl. Mr. Bascom had an office on the second floor in the post office building. For years of advertising the other two did not include an address.

Millinery and Fancy Goods: If it were not for the ladies — God Bless them (!) — there would be no millinery goods. A beautiful and becoming bonnet or hat or an array of charming ribbons is necessary to deck a pretty woman. To supply these there are three stores in this village: Mrs. E. P. Billet, Mrs. Nettie Manville and Misses Spencer and McDonough. They guarantee the most elaborate work of deft hands (Mrs. Manville — a little store on Williams street, the other two had no address).

Toys and Fancy Goods: The merchants of this village never had such complete assortments of holiday goods as this year. Toys in great variety, fancy goods of all sorts, books of every description, and perfumes of exquisite scents are kept by O. A. Manville, L. Corbett, J. B. Broughton, P. W. Barry or Charles B. Pike. At Wood & Hotchkiss or at Walter D. Travis’s store are to be found a large array of pretty goods for presents. In the

way of candies and confections are Broughton & Son, O. A. Manville, J. H. Sullivan & Co., P. W. Barry, L. Corbett, R. M. Witherbee, or Wheeler & Wilcox.

Barker, the photographer, can give you beautiful pictures at moderate prices. He has frames and moldings for all kinds of pictures at No. 8 Broad Street.

Ambrose Gilligan has a stock complete in groceries, provisions and flour for holiday gifts. (North of High Street).

Wines and Liquors: Such as need pure wines, liquors, ales, lagers and soda water can be supplied by the polite Charles Quigley. His store is convenient and by leaving orders with him you can have anything ordered, delivered at your door (Corner of Division and Canal (Main Street.) Among other dealers are L. Corbett, O. A. Manville, and P. W. Barry.

There was adequate train transportation from Whitehall south and citizens took advantage of it. So great was the trade of the county people in Albany and Troy that the stores placed large advertisements in the county papers.

Troy Advertisers. Dry Goods: Messrs. G. V. S. Quackenbush & Co., William H. Frear, and Church and Phalen were favorites. These houses are reliable and all residents will be honestly dealt with. The firm for musical instruments is the solid house of Cluett & Sons of Troy and Albany. Many pianos, organs and other instruments are sold by that firm in this locality and no complaint of any consequence has been heard of them.

John S. Tobey offers clothing at his West Side store at prices that are pleasing to his patrons. His stock is full of stylish garments at low prices with fabrics of the best makes.

Albany Store: The largest dry goods house in Albany is that of W. M. Whitney & Co. This mammoth concern is a perfect wonder. Its hundred departments are like so many stores and northern people traveling in Albany can always find a greater variety at Whitney's.

With all these suggestions for gifts and places to find them, Whitehallers could not help but find the appropriate gift for each person.

The Whitehall Times December 30, 1982

December 1882? (See "County Government" for this date) Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

F. F. Follett retired from the mercantile trade, selling his entire stock. He did not plan to leave Whitehall. The village could not afford to lose such men.

Fred H. Gaylord, because of increasing trade was advertising a closing out sale at 21 Broad Street. He planned to remove his business to the Renois Building at the corner of Saunders and Canal Street, the place of Wood and Hotchkiss.

Wood and Hotchkiss was selling items at great reductions as they were moving from the Renois Block to Chapin's Block.

S. K. Griswold on Williams Street was reducing his prices as he intended to make some changes in his business.

Edward Comey and his assistant shod 102 horses one week, the largest work ever done in this section.

Dr. E. H. Horton, newlywed, moved to Whitehall from Sandy Hill. He was taking over the practice of Dr. Tobey who was going to San Francisco. He would live in Mrs. Doherty's Boarding House in which he would also have his office.

E.W. Hall purchased a saw and grist mill in Truthville. Adding a new building, he planned to manufacture his justly celebrated red slate paint.

The Whitehall Times
February 24, 1983

Whitehall in January 1883
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

One hundred years ago the telephone line was firmly installed in the village. A telephone exchange was formed after several businessmen subscribed to the project. A line had been extended to Port Henry and on to Elizabethtown and the north. On Sunday, 1 January, Manager W. B. Eddy sat in the telegraph office in Whitehall and by telephone and transmitter, listened to a church service held in Plattsburgh. Editor Fisher commented, 'Wonderful days, these.'

The Whitehall Times
February 24, 1983

Whitehall in January 1883
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Renois and Son in the cracker, cake, and bread bakery, started a new industry. They obtained the services of a first class candy maker and now manufactured chocolate cream drops and bars of a supreme quality. Perfectly pure these could be bought by leaving orders. A large stock is kept in the cases. The new industry should be encouraged

The machinery was all new in both the bakery and the candy shop.

The Whitehall Times
May 5, 1983

April 1883
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Moving time occurred in stores as well as houses in April and May. Fred H. Gaylord took possession of Renois Store, corner of Canal and Saunders, lately vacated by Wood and Hotchkiss. They renovated and repainted. The two lieutenants Thomas Vaughan and George Cull, presided over a large stock of new spring goods and a large assortment of wall paper, he intended to expand by use of judicious advertisements for his selected stock of goods.

And the Carver Brothers George and Andrew rented one of the Renois stores on Saunders Street to carry on a meat business. They would put a delivery wagon on the road and take the bought meat to the customer.

The Whitehall Independent
November 23, 1983

October 1883
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

By October 1883 Miner and Manville had built a shed for dressed lumber near the Adams Mill in the southern part of the village. Alex Williamson ran it.

A planing machine was placed in it. This was a new departure for the firm but demands of trade called for it and the enterprising firm answered with its new departure.

By 10 October the Water Power Company was working on the flume and grist mill walls before cold weather set in. The supply of water over the dam was never less than five inches from bank to bank. The grist mill was expected to bring many farmers to Whitehall. They were now obliged to go to Fair Haven or Granville to have their grist ground. Merchants were looking forward to increased profit and the railroad company contemplated the construction of a large shop here.

The Whitehall Independent
November 30, 1983

November 1883
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Potato trade had been brisk this fall. Ambrose Gilligan had shipped three canal boat loads — 15,000 bushels — and had another boatload nearly ready to go.

William Sinnott and Captain Quinn each had a boat nearly ready to go. The prices paid were 35 and 40 cents.

The Whitehall Independent
July 4, 1984

1884
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Whitehall Stock Improvement Company was incorporated for the improvement of breeds of horses. The men involved were Whitehall and Dresden citizens. Francis E. Fish, Gilbert H. Hunt, Charles Mellon, P. S. Benjamin, Sereno

Hollister, E. A. Jakway, Frank Jakway, R. M. Witherbee.

Dr. Taggart, new in town, opened his dentistry in the Arcade Building.

The Whitehall Times
August 19, 1984

(No Title)
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A candy industry still remembered in Whitehall was that of the Henry sisters. They were the successors of Mrs. Edward Murphy, who had a kitchen on Saunders Street between what is now Main and Broadway. She conducted the business a long time after her husband died. She made excellent candy in the spotlessly clean conditions of her establishment and her candy utensils at all times, resulting in a large business.

Mrs. Murphy gained a prominence with her peanuts, which were sought far and wide. She had a special roast.

Houses dealing in peanuts tried to obtain her secret, but as far as was known the secret was never divulged. Skenesborough Museum has the peanut roaster from the Henry sisters.' George King related that, he spent many hours turning it for them. It was always rumored that the girls had a secret candy recipe. Perhaps they got it from Mrs. Murphy with the business, for they delivered candy for her. Again rumor has it that the secret recipe was sold to a firm in Chicago.

Mrs. Murphy possessed a pleasing personality and had many friends. She would never sell candy on Sunday, believing that six days were enough. She gave liberally to the Methodist Church and was always prominently identified with church doings. I believe she was the one who was described as always, at all times of day and night wearing a hat.

The Whitehall Independent
January 16, 1985

1884
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Samuel L. Dwight (5 March 1812 to 25 August 1884) came to Whitehall to enter the business on the canal and the lake. He entered business with M. T. Jillson in a stove and livery enterprise, and then came a partnership with Sidney Brown in a foundry business and a store for its products under the name of Dwight & Brown. This failed in 1861.

After a short sojourn in Buffalo, Samuel returned to Whitehall and joined James Doren in the furniture trade. He was a canal collector in 1872-1873. He married twice, Mary Jillson in 1850 and Mrs. Nancy Adams of Nevada in 1877. There were no children.

The Whitehall Independent
March 21, 1984

February, 1884
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The business of Messrs Miner & Manville was stressed in this issue. It was a firm of wholesale and retail lumber at the yard near the railroad depot. Pine, spruce, and hemlock, rough and dressed, were in stock. Ladders were on hand.

The Whitehall Independent
April 25, 1984

April, 1884
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A photography gallery was opened by Mr. Brown in Chapin's Block. Baker, the photographer, will not leave Whitehall until May. Mr. Brown specialized in baby pictures. -

Miss Helen Knight purchased the old Adirondack Spring House which she will rebuild for a store.

George Yule had kept a hotel a little below the Grand Union Hotel for 24 years. It was located at the south corner of Bellamy Street and Broad Street. He kept a good hotel and his prices were not high as he saved expense by not running an omnibus to the station. His bartender was with him 23 years.

Chauncey Bates had been the most vigorous and graceful skater at the Whitehall rinks. He leased a building in Whitehall and will open a grocery store with his son-in-law Joe Wallace.

The Whitehall Independent
July 4, 1994

June, 1884
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Dr. Taggart, new in town, opened his dentistry in the Arcade Building.

James Pardo contracted to have the entire yield of Robert H. Cooke's strawberry crop. The berries were most luscious and richer in taste than those from the south, not being crushed or soft from the train jolt. Each day's picking was on sale by orders of James Pardo under the First National Bank (basement of present Northern Insurance Company).

The Whitehall Independent
January 19, 1985

Summer Events of 1884
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Mrs. C. W. Burdett's ice cream saloon was now located on Canal Street, opposite Queen Street.

In this day this would be a novel campaign gimmick. Wood and Hotchkiss were agents for a whip having the pictures of Cleveland and Hendrick or Blaine and Logan.

The Whitehall Times
November 23, 1972

1885

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

There are sea serpent stories of Lake Champlain. Ben Carpenter told the story of 1873 in his Broadway and Canal recently and the York State Tradition told it in its columns. Why not a cat story?

Those over whom cats can hold sway delight in stories of the animal's feats. These two items were in The Whitehall Times of 1885 and 1886 as news. A farmer in East Whitehall was puzzled for a long time as to why he could not get milk from two of his cows in the morning. He suspected neighbors of stealing the milk so set a watch to catch them. What was his astonishment to discover the thieves to be several cats that roamed wild about his premises. They were found sucking the milk and enjoying banquets such as they had not had as kittens. The cat cemetery had seven raves.

But the village cat of Chauncey Brownell Bates was a topic for several years. Mr. Bates' grocery store was opposite A. P. Carver's meat market which was located in October, 1885, on the corner of Broad and High Streets, in the former J. F. Clark store. When the cat was hungry he would go to the cash register, knock for enough money for his purchase, cross the street and buy his meat for dinner. The account stated that Barnum had made an offer for the cat but the animal was such a favorite that Mr. Bates would not part with him;

The following year, 1887, an item reported that Mr. Bates was doing well with his groceries at such prices that please. The customer also had a chance to view the wonderful cat that "in sagacity surpasses even the famous felines of Dame Trot and Master Worthington."

Chauncey Bates was a grocery man. He did not place advertisements in the newspapers but his location must have been on the east side of Broad Street to be opposite A. P. Carver's meat market. He had a delivery wagon, as most stores of that time. Another news item tells of his being a regular "Knight of the Brush" because he did a faultless job in renovating his delivery wagon when it needed painting.

Mr. Bates was an influential man. An Episcopalian, he was a vestryman in 1880, 1884-85, 1887-1902, a long period of time. In 1899 he with F. H. McFarren and L. D. Tefft wrote Resolutions of Respect for Hannibal Allen, another long time vestryman. Two of these men T. H. McFarren and L. D. Tefft, with H. B. Skeels, wrote Resolutions of Respect on his death in 1902.

**The Whitehall Independent
Unknown Date**

1886

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Tobacco was grown in Whitehall, as evidenced by the dried product found in the barn which stood at the Scime home on Williams Street and which is now in the Museum. Fred Albee, later a druggist, spent some earlier days in making cigars on Mountain Street. In April 1886 Morris Abraham and Edward Beekman came to Whitehall from Rutland where they had spent six years in the employ of Lew Abraham. Their purpose was to open a cigar store and manufactory in Whitehall. Eight hands were to be employed at first. They invited the public to inspect their stock on 8 April. Oddly enough the place of business was not located nor did the firm advertise in the newspaper.

**The Whitehall Independent
March 19, 1886**

Whitehall 1886

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Boat building was important to Whitehall and its neighbors. One neighbor was J. & G. Adams, the eldest in the northern part of New York. For 33 years this family had conducted their business in West Haven, Vermont. During this time the company had constructed over 100 canal boats worth \$270,000. Adams' boats floated through all the canals of the State and Canada and were noted for being durable and capable. The firm had just turned out two first class crafts, one for Whitehall Captain Dennis Noel who was claimed one of the best boatmen in this section; and the other for Dykeman & St. Clair of Brooklyn. One went north and the other went south.

**The Whitehall Independent
April 9, 1886**

April 1886 Advertisers

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Locating early business places along the streets of Whitehall is an exercise. Advertisements in newspapers often did not give addresses and Sanborn maps do not always name the buildings shown. Street numbers, of course, are not the same now as then. In the spring time businesses, as well as homeowners, often changed places.

In 1886, P. W. Barry had a drug store, and as well as other druggists, he sold paints and oils. With no address given, the Sanborn map of 1884 can be used to place the store as only one drug store was shown on Broad (North Main) Street as the second building north of Clinton Avenue.

F. H. Gaylord had a shoe store, and in this year, added a new department of dry goods. He opened the season with a sale of shoes in his store at 41 Canal Street which stood at the corner of Broad and Clinton next to the Buell fishing tackle factory.

Farther south in the building at the corner of Broad and Canal at No. 1, William Shay, Jr. reopened his fancy fruit and vegetable store. He also sold tobacco products. This site was called the Jillson Building corner.

John C. Earl had a shoe store in the Anderson Building. In 1886 he overhauled the store. He placed his desk in the center and built a raised platform where the ladies could sit to have their shoes fitted. The well known Luke H. Carrington managed the store.

In the Griswold Iron Front, Joseph Carmel also renovated his Old Reliable business and his store front was pronounced a "Daisy". He sold clothing hats, caps, and Gents' wear. In April he had just returned from New York with 100 wool suits which he was selling at a special sale for \$5.95.

A new specialty store was opened at this time. Abraham and Beckwith began to sell the leading brands of cigars and tobacco with chewing and smoking plug, pipes and cigar holders in the Iron Front at 65 Canal Street. To be sure, our cigars end in smoke but while they last they are delicious. Try our celebrated A. Z. plug tobacco. We give the largest quantity for the smallest price.

The Whitehall Times July 17, 1886

One Hundred Years Ago in Whitehall, 1886 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

S. K. Griswold was beginning a hall over the block occupied by I. Englander, Abraham & Beckman, and J. R. Broughton & Sons. It was to be elegantly decorated, painted, and furnished with class. The stage was to be enlarged and fitted up over Potter and Little's offices and theatrical scenery provided. Seating 500, it would be a first class public hall.

The Whitehall Times January 8, 1987

Whitehall in 1887 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

From the file of Whitehall Times of this year, 1887, which is our last consecutive issues of this resource, come different practices in the way of life one hundred years ago.

A notice: To Whom It May Concern. We, the undersigned, hardware merchants of Whitehall, do agree to close our places of business from January 3, 1887, to March 19, 1887, at 7 o'clock p.m. excepting Saturday evenings. Wood and Hotchkiss, W.D. Travis.

A.M. Burdett placed an advertisement directly appealing to the farmers of Whitehall. CASH would be paid for butter, cheese, apples, walnuts, etc. He believed it would be to their benefit to consult him before they disposed of their produce elsewhere. He had a fruit and commission business in Troy, N.Y., that was a good market. However the next issue of the paper advised that he had retired from the business in Troy and returned to Whitehall where he would be pleased to receive their attention. His bakery in the Renois Block was still in business.

An inducement for subscriptions to the Whitehall Times and Carl Pretzel's National Weekly was an opportunity to purchase for \$8 a life size picture of the subscriber. If already a subscriber, he could secure the portrait for \$7. A guarantee was included that if the portrait was not exactly like the picture submitted for copying, cash would be refunded. The editor had his portrait as an example.

Wetherbee's Cash Store prided itself on low prices. When wheat prices declined at this time, he proclaimed he was the first to reduce the price and Pittsburgh's Best would be \$5.25. At that time flour was purchased by the barrel. He declared all other foods available at the lowest prices.

J. Carmel at the Reliable explained he had returned from New York with a "magnificent" line of clothing for men, boys, and children and was prepared to give his customers immense bargains.

F.H. Gaylord at 41 Broad Street advertised his stock of winter clothing at Reduced Prices, owing to the continued mild weather.

An advertising verse popular in the area newspapers at this time read:

A girl can sing and a girl can dance

And on the piano she can play,

But she can't light a match on the seat of her pants

Because she ain't built that way.

The editor estimated that at least twenty million girls set out to prove this false and by actual count consumed at least ten matches. This would be 1,388,888 gross of matches worth at least \$20,000. What a great return on a simple verse of advertising.

The Whitehall Times

January 22, 1887

Whitehall 1887

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

John H. Waters opened a restaurant in the Feely Building two doors south of John Brett's (American Legion building).

Nettie C. Manville was still using her advertisement for fall goods. After the same advertisements were run for several months, she still had fall hats, plushes, scarves, and a

full line of material for art embroidery. Orders for embroidery were welcome. Many merchants followed this practice of one advertisement for many months.

Scotched but not killed” read William Shay’s advertisement for 5 January. He reopened his store at No. 1 Broad Street with a new stock of canned goods, nuts, candy, cigars and vegetables.

A. P. Carver removed his grocery and provision store and meat market to the J. F. Clark Store at corner of Broad and High Streets.

The Whitehall Times

January 29, 1987

Whitehall 1887

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Another industry at this time was the bottling of Dr. Atherton Hall’s Wild Cherry Syrup. Dr. Hall was prominent in Whitehall and was the father of George and Edwin Hall who constructed the mansions on West Mountain. Atherton Street was named for him. It lies just east of the Meyer’s Castle lot. O. A. Manville was a druggist and had the formula for the syrup. In January 1887 he was busy putting up sample bottles of this favorite remedy for gratuitous distribution. The medicine had become popular. I wouldn’t be surprised if some bottle collector in Whitehall had one of these bottles in his collection now.

The Whitehall Times

February 12, 1987

Whitehall in 1887

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In March Orville L. Burdett returned to his home in Whitehall and established a cigar manufacturing business and a tobacco store in the Blair Allen store at the railroad crossing. He had formerly worked fifteen years at this industry and it was hoped he would find his return financially beneficial. He had the confidence of the public.

The Whitehall Times
February 19, 1987

Whitehall in 1887
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In this year J. Phil Graulich was the oldest tailor merchant in town as far as an active service was concerned. He came to town in 1868 and was engaged with H.R. Wait for two years. Since that time he carried on the merchant tailoring business himself in the upper story of Wait's Store. He kept a large stock of woolen suitings on hand. His reputation as a fashionable cutter extended to other places beyond Whitehall.

Mr. Wilkins often wrote little paragraphs about the business men in the village. Another he praised was John C. Earl who kept a boot, shoe, cap, and hat business in a model establishment. A customer could find coarse or fine work in his goods. He was in the rank of fine business men.

James H. Parke and Henry C. Jillson formed a co-partnership for dry goods and groceries at the old stand of the late J. H. H. Parke at the corner of Broad Street and Clinton Avenue. They went to New York for a supply of goods.

The Whitehall Times
February 26, 1987

Whitehall in 1887
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In April E.B. Murray was manufacturing toothsome candy at the corner of Church and Saunders Streets. He served his customers daily with crisp and pure stock which filled the palate, like a glad visitation from tender and soft climes. A pound of Murray's candies was said to tickle one's palate. "Try it if you want a pure unadulterated article." It was from this shop that the young Henry girls peddled Mr. Murray's candy and later manufactured it themselves on Saunders Street.

The Whitehall Times
March 19, 1987

Whitehall in 1887
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In summer now we do see ice being delivered to homes or halls for special occasions, but in 1887 the ice man's visit was a daily occurrence for some families. Vannier & Allen were ice dealers then. Regular deliveries began 14 May. Rates changed during the summer months. Before 13 June, 40 cents per week for

30 pounds; 50 cents per week for 45 pounds per day; commencing 15 June, 10 cents per week extra for the same quantity; special prices to families having ice cleaned and stored. Saloons paid 15 cents per 100 pounds and bills were payable weekly. Ice was - delivered four times a week in May, September and October; daily in June, July and August.

The purchase of a hot water furnace was a newsworthy item. The progressive people of the village were the leaders. Samuel Donaldson the agent in Whitehall placed such furnaces in the residences of Judge Potter, Rev. A. McMillan. A.M. Burdett, W.B. Eddy and Captain Rush. These homes were made warmer by this uniform heating.

Lawrence Jemery moved his new barber shop into the basement of the First National Bank. He had one of the pleasantest tonsorial establishments in the country. This building was erected in 1875 for the First National Bank. The tonsorial parlor was in its basement under the present Northern Insuring Company Upstairs on the third floor was Griswold's Music hall entered from Center Street. In April 1887 one entertainment in the hall was a double header, a temperance drama "The Turn of the Tide" and a comedy "The Elevator" under the direction of the talented Franke Griswold and casts of local Whitehall men and women.

The Whitehall Times **April 9, 1887**

1887

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Whitehall has had several outstanding photographers. In 1887 he was Chas. H. Pease labeled as skillful in his profession in the Cottage Studio.

The Whitehall Times **March 26 1887**

May 1887

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In May 1887 a large deposit of grey marble had been found on the farms of Franklin and Henry Bartholomew along the line of the Washington and Rutland Railroad. The samples had taken a beautiful polish. William M. Dowell foreman of Valido Marble Works of Fair Haven had obtained the option of buying. The future looked rosy.

The Whitehall Times
March 3, 1977

1892-93 Village Directory
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In summarizing this booklet, I found an answer to the Terry Hotels. The Arlington Hotel is a follower of the Terry House opposite the depot. Farther north on South Canal Street was the Cottage Hotel of Henry Terry. Still farther north but on Canal Street was the Novelty Hotel of Isaac Terry.

Canal Street began at Fin Kana's flag shanty and numbered north while South Canal Street began there and numbered south. There are names of some streets not now listed on maps. Where were South Street, Irwin's (Erwin's) Lane, Beaudoin Lane, Griswold Lane and Lindsay Place?

This directory contains 1357 village names, printed by the press of The Whitehall Times for the Whitehall Directory Company. By occupation railroad workers head the list with 233 persons. This included all kinds of work performed by railroaders even to the call boys.

Construction workers, divided into categories, came next with 55 carpenters, 2 contractors, 27 ship carpenters, 7 boat builders, 16 bridge carpenters with 2 bridge foremen, 2 bridge builders, 19 masons, 22 painters, 2 slate manufacturers, 1 Slater, 1 brick maker, 1 plasterer, 2 wood workers, 1 cabinet maker.

The village had 5 doctors, 1 dentist, 2 nurses and 5 druggists.

Before the days of the automobile Whitehall transportation was serviced by 18 blacksmiths, 3 harness makers, 2 wagon makers, 1 carriage maker, 28 carters, and teamsters, 6 liveryies.

People were kept trim by 7 barbers, 1 hairdresser, 5 tailors, 17 dressmakers, 5 milliners, 8 shoemakers, 6 laundries.

It took 53 clerks for the 7 clothing stores, 14 groceries, and 11 meat stores. There were 2 steam bottling works, 1 spoon hook maker, 1 creamery, 4 clergymen (for 6 churches?), 1 taxidermist, 13 (?) silk workers, 13 (?) teachers, 3 upholsterers, 3 gardeners, 4 jewelers, 3 steamboat captains, 1 grave digger, 1 spring maker, 1 fisherman, 3 sash and blind makers.

I imagine everyone did not have a place in the directory but the picture of a different era is depicted in the occupations.

The Whitehall Times
September 1, 1983

That Little Hardware Store
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

T. S. McLachlin owned a hardware store in town during the 1800's. When he went west for an extended stay, he sold the store to William B. Travis who conducted the

same kind of business. In early 1895 Mr. Travis sold the business at auction; it was purchased by E.C. Pratt. As sometimes happens at auctions, the \$1550 price was lower than the value of the stock, which was \$3,000.

Mr. Pratt set to work immediately to inventory the stock, clean up the store, and open for business. He had experience in the merchandise business and expected to make a success of this one. Soon after the opening, this poem appeared in the Whitehall Chronicle, a good advertisement.

If stoves and ranges you desire
What best will suit the careful buyer;

Then to E.C. Pratt's & Co. repair
And money save by buying there.
They have a little, but well filled
store

With all you want and something more.
Go to them for a fair, square deal,
In iron, copper, tin and steel;
In locks and keys, and nuts and screws

And nails of every kind to use;
Axes, hatchets, screws and saws
And vises with their hardened jaws;

Knives, forks and scissors,
Bolts and wire,
In cutlery, all you may desire.
In short, they always keep on hand

A complete line of crockery at
Your demand.
Their Andes ranges will supply
A want at home for which you sigh.

Farm implements of every kind
In which all excellence is combined

And if you wish repairing done
Don't pass them by, for they're
Always one
Who'll do it best, and you'll agree -
That prices lower you'll never see.

The Whitehall Independent
December 24, 1986

1896

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Special Christmas gifts were offered by merchants in ways to catch the buyer's eye:
Fine Art Goods from W.M. Whitney & Co., Albany
A crayon portrait of yourself, life size for a subscription to Cart Pretzel's National Weekly.
Special mark down sale for the Holiday Sale of clothing at Church & Phalen, Troy
Winter Goods of astrachan and boucle at F.H. Gaylord
Bargains of flour, grain, and seed at J. H. Sullivan
Perfumeriea and fancy articles at R. A. Chaplin, Headquarters for Holiday Goods
Price of flour reduced because of decline in wheat at Witherbee's
Domestic Sewing Machines at Harding and Bascom
Headquarters of Santa Claus, O. A. Manville
A Christmas of a giant delight with every boy's suit or overcoat at Henry L. Smith, Albany

The Whitehall Times
July 13, 1974

1898

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Anniversary Bells: George and Ethel Lane, July 21; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Pray, July 25.
The editor of The Whitehall Times, Milo C. Reynolds, devoted quite a number of columns in the 11 August 1898 issue to reproduce the assessors' report for the Town of Whitehall. The assessors who completed the work were E. C. Jakway, F. C. Ryon and Washington George.
Farms with acreages, houses and lots of individuals and owners of business concerns were listed with their valuations. One notes the absence of many of the well known mercantile firms but that must simply mean that they rented space.
The largest on the tax roll was the D&H R. R. Company, both Rensselaer and Saratoga and Champlain divisions at \$226,000; Champlain Silk Mill with its Hancock mill, \$50,400; Whitehall Lumber Company including its offices, machine shop, coal shed, steam mill, Neddo Ship Yard, barking mill, docks, and lumber sheds \$21,700; the Brandon Paint Company located on the George Bud farm (Hanford Austin) \$20,000; S. K. Griswold holdings, \$14,300 including the bank block (Williams Insurance) and the next two buildings (Arcade and Iron Front) and his dock; R. G. Dayton stores (old Commercial House); John O'Neill's bottling house on South Canal Street, new store

(Temple of Economy) and two other stores, \$7,850; Peter Renois's two stores at the north side of Saunders Street facing Canal (Main), \$6,700; I. I. Rush's Anderson hall block \$5,500; and S. E. Miller's Polly block \$4,500.

Other ways of making products provide an interesting list. The Arena Marble Company owned 38 acres of land. Besides the Brandon Paint Company there was Eddy and Harris Paint works and Joseph Potter's gravel bed, stone quarry and slate quarry in East Whitehall. Whitehall had four creameries: Champlain Valley Creamery, Hudson Valley Creamery on Poultney Street and at East Whitehall, and the Whitehall Creamery.

Owners of hotels at that time were Michael Donehue, John Davy, Henry Terry and Thomas Paterson (Hall Hotel).

Edith Jillson and H. G. Burleigh owned blacksmith shops.

Some miscellaneous concerns were John Blakeslee's tin shop, Church Street Opera House, Fisher and Fraser's livery stables, H. B. Martin's Slaughter House, John Nichols Restaurant, Burleigh and Brothers and Frank Ryon's Coal Yards, Joseph Wilson's Carpenter Shop and factory.

Lumber yards were run by Burdett, Haven and Co., Whitehall Lumber Co. Boat yards were listed under H. G. Burleigh, John Reed's Shipyard and barn, Mrs. John Ryan, Neddo's Ship Yard under Whitehall Lumber Co.

Three bank holdings were Merchants National (The Bank), Old National bank (Whiting's) and Griswold's bank block (Williams' insurance).

Ice was an important commodity. The commercial ice business was O. A. Horton's at the Creek and on Williams Street; John Davey had one for his hotel, Hiram Skeels for his butcher shop, Whitehall Creamery and Whitehall Lumber Co.

Shops were common. Some uses are known such as Mrs. J. C. Chapman (wood-work), James Doren (furniture and coffins), Mrs. A. C. Hopson (building), O. W. Horton, Louis LaCasse, Charles (row boats) Thomas Wilson, Charles Wheeler and George Stafford.

Transportation and communication were served by Kanes Falls Electric Co., Kenyon's Line Co. land, McLachlin gas property, N.Y. and Lake Champlain Towing Co., Telegraph Western Union, Telegraph Postal Co., Telegraph Great North Western, Telephone New England, Telephone Hudson River, and Whitehall Water Power Co.

The Whitehall Times

February 9, 1978

Wood Industries in Whitehall 1876

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In searching the proposed 1876 extension of Mountain Street, I found an obituary of Robert Irwin, one of the homeowners who would have been affected by the expansion. It listed all the occupations that Irwin had engaged in that centered upon wood. Taking in all the phases of industry that used wood the number is great for Whitehall.

The virgin trees of the area in the 1700's were large. There are accounts of them with six-foot diameters and boards sawed of 24 inches in width. The first use of wooden buildings in Skenesborough is the wooden fort and barracks on the west hill overlooking the lake. They were surrounded with palisades of wooden pickets. This was before 1759 when Philip Skene founded Skenesborough.

Before 1765 Skene had a wooden sawmill with a framed mill dam on the east side of the 20-foot falls. It was to this mill that DeWitt Bloodgood was forced to draw logs in 1777. At the same time as Skene's mill Burroughs had one in the Hatch Hill area.

Buildings were built of wood. A by-product of great importance in the young settlement was the potash made from the ashes of the trees burned to clear the land. This was an important material until after the War of 1812 being sent over the lake, so important that it was smuggled. It wasn't until 1810 that the first brick house was erected in Whitehall though stone buildings had been built.

In 1777 three wooden bridges across the creeks in the area were destroyed and in that year Skene ordered a stockpile of 7000 planks destroyed so the Americans could not use them.

During the shipbuilding era of 1776 much of the hills around were denuded of trees and boards for the ships had to be imported.

The lake boat era began in 1810. Before that time the harbor of Whitehall was as busy as in 1776 building sloops and heavy dories for the lake trade. When Thomas MacDonough arrived to make preparations for the conditioning of the navy ships, he found two shipyards of some importance in full operation, Moses Eggleston and Samuel Boardman.

In 1807 the War Department ordered Lt. Melancton Wheeler Wolsey to build two gunboats at Whitehall to help control smuggling. These latter became the nucleus of the Navy on Lake Champlain. The **Golden Hunter** was built in Whitehall in 1811 by Elijah Boynton, a prominent boatman of Whitehall; the **Eagle**, a 60-ton schooner by Samuel Boardman, and the **Morning Star**, a 50-ton ship in 1810

Three ships were reconstructed in Whitehall's harbor and sailed for Plattsburgh in October and early November 1812, as the ships of the first United States Navy had been constructed here and sailed north for the affair at Valcour.

The Whitehall Times

December 7, 1972

More of 1904

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

More of 1904. Transportation has always been an important factor in Whitehall's life. A livery stable on Saunders Street was run by W. G. Fisher; Allen S. Temple at Broad and Bellamy Streets boarded horses also E. Comey's blacksmith shop was on Division Street. Joseph C. Duhamel, who also repaired wagons, had his shop on North Williams Street while Alfred Fadden made harnesses on Canal Street. John Ryan was a boat builder on Canal Street and Lake Champlain Transportation Company, which car-

ried on transportation and towing, was on Broad Street. The Standard Oil Company was located on Canal Street. Oddly enough the Delaware and Hudson Railroad was not listed.

Communication was served by Co-Operant Telephone Company on Canal Street; Hudson River Telephone and Telegraph, Postal Telegraph Cable Company, Western Union Telegraph Company were all on Broad Street.

People of Whitehall could be well clothed. M. C. Barker sold shoes on Canal Street; women bought hats at Mrs. T. D. Conner, Mrs. J. S. Wilsey, and F. A. Young and Co., all on Canal Street. Napoleon Reine on Broad Street and John Wolsey on North Williams, Street, repaired shoes. Clothiers and dry goods places located on Canal Street were J. P. Graulich, Harding and Bascom, Louis - Markstone, Miller, R. A. Wilson & Co., and J. Englander, a merchant tailor.

Men could become well groomed at the barber shops of Wm. Brannan, Frank Burke and C. A. Jemery on Canal Street; J. H. Jemery at Canal and Broad Streets. The Jemery shop accommodated canal men with hot and cold baths, the tubs for which can be seen in Skenesborough Museum.

Three jewelry stores were located on Canal Street. Frank Burke, who had one at the same address as his barber shop; M. Oppenheim, and C. P. Pike who had removed to No. 1 Canal Street from the north.

While not the "lumber yard" that it was in the middle 1800's, Whitehall still had lumber companies: Burdett & Havens & Co. were south of the D. & H. station; John Ryan was on Canal Street, while Burleigh & Weeks and Whitehall Lumber Co. were situated on Broad Street.

Miscellaneous stores are interesting. Duncan Bros. were news dealers on North Williams street; John Fisher had a stationery store on Canal Street. Coal dealers were F. C. Ryon and Sons on Canal Street and Lake Champlain Coal Co. on Broad Street. E. P. Pratt sold hardware on Canal Street.

Confectionery and cigars composed the businesses of J. L. Millet and F. A. Walker on Canal Street and K. Salmons on Church Street. Merchants National Bank was located on Canal and Saunders Streets. F. S. Snyder had a machine shop on Canal Street and Robert Brett operated a feed store on North Williams Street. James Doren Sons sold furniture on North Williams Street and James Doren, Hardware, on Canal Street.

Two general stores are listed; John O'Neil's Temple of Economy on Canal Street and Paletz's Combination Store on Broad Street. W. T. Cook, "The man who fixes things" was located on North Williams. The Whitehall Creamery was on Division Street. Evah W. Waters was a public stenographer on Broad Street while insurance agents were E. Baldwin, Jr., on Canal, and W. F. Bascom on Broad Street, Champlain Silk Mill was listed on North Williams and the Graphite Mines had an office in the Commercial Hotel on Broad Street.

Public offices were recorded: Post office, board of trustees, and Village Clerk F. S. Cowen, and Whitehall Water Works all on Broad Street.

Whitehall certainly had diversification in 1904.

The Whitehall Times
April 19, 1984

(No Title)

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A candy industry still remembered in Whitehall was that of the Henry sisters. They were the successors of Mrs. Edward Murphy, who had a kitchen on Saunders Street between what is now Main and Broadway. She conducted the business a long time after her husband died. She made excellent candy in the spotlessly clean conditions of her establishment and her candy utensils at all times, resulting in a large business.

Mrs. Murphy gained a prominence with her peanuts, which were sought far and wide. She had a special roast.

Houses dealing in peanuts tried to obtain her secret, but as far as was known the secret was never divulged. Skenesborough Museum has the peanut roaster from the Henry sisters. George King related that he spent many hours turning it for them. It was always rumored that the girls had a secret candy recipe. Perhaps they got it from Mrs. Murphy with the business, for they delivered candy for her. Again rumor has it that the secret recipe was sold to a firm in Chicago.

Mrs. Murphy possessed a pleasing personality and had many friends. She would never sell candy on Sunday, believing that six days were enough. She gave liberally to the Methodist Church and was always prominently identified with church doings. I believe she was the one who was described as always, at all times of day and night wearing a hat.

The Whitehall Independent
May 4, 1983

Women at Work in 1883
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

These advertisements tell of businesses of women in Whitehall in the earlier days.

“Mrs. Millette keeps one of the best and quietest restaurants to be found in this locality. Situated above the principal business portion of the village, her patrons can enjoy a well-cooked meal or a dish of ice cream without being disturbed. This lady, by her industry and frugality, has been enabled to support herself and son besides laying by enough to purchase a residence and erect a neat and tasty building for a store and restaurant. She has deserved the patronage that has been bestowed upon her, and her success shows what a woman can accomplish who is determined to win.

“Mrs. Henry Coshburn of 56 Church Street, near the north end of the tunnel, is prepared to do all kinds of Hair Work entrusted to her. Switches, curls, braids, etc. made to order. Coloring faded hair a specialty. Hair combings rooted. Frizzes dressed over at 10 cents per set. All work warranted first class.”

“Mrs. Mattie C. Manville announces a full line of millinery goods on hand and trimmed to order. Fancy goods; Columbia wools; split zephyrs; Angora wool, white and grey; Scottish knitting yarns, all colors; canvasses, felt and plush; all kinds of fancy articles for fancy work; Florence knit silks; embroidery silk; all kinds of knit goods on hand and knit to order; designing and stamping. All at popular prices in the little store on Williams Street. Millinery and Fancy Goods of every description.”

“Dissolution: Firm known as Spencer and McDonough by mutual consent. Miss Spencer is taking the store in Rutland and Miss McDonough the one in Whitehall. Miss McDonough has returned to this place and will succeed the millinery establishment over A. Manville’s Drug Store.”

“Miss Maud Holcomb is learning telegraphy in the office of W. H. Eddy.”

The Saratoga Eagle said this: The Whitehall Times has a column devoted to feminine news under the heading “What the Dear Creatures are About.” We have examined the column closely and continuously, but fail to find any of them about their business, tending to the children or mending their husband’s pantaloons. Reform is necessary.”

Among comments on fashions and stories of talk of events, Mr. Wilkins printed such as: More than one hundred scrubwomen in Harrisburg are anxiously waiting reappointment to positions in which was earned one dollar a week; Twenty— seven women working in a chain gang were a sad sight in Atlanta; There are more than thirty women in the role of female correspondents in the ranks of Washington, and some of them write most interesting letters and have influence. Who was the chauvinist?

The Whitehall Independent **January 22, 1986**

September 14, 1900
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Different business men and their trades were announced. William Blanchard opened a blacksmith shop in a building lately owned, then, by George Shovah on the bar near the Burleigh Coal Shed. He advertised horse shoeing and general repair of the best workmanship. King and Warner were advertising. James Doren’s Sons invited all to a grand cooking exhibition on the celebrated P. P. Stewart Range. Free lunch would be served at all times during the week, baked in the oven of this stove. Short one-sentences were scattered throughout the paper. E. C. Pratte advertised “Elopement ladders.”

The Whitehall Times
September 19, 1985

A Manufacturing Optician 1907
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In a 1907 issue of a newspaper an announcement was made of a new industry that came to Whitehall. It had been foretold in a March issue and in June it was being installed by Frank J. Fisher, an optician who lived on Saunders Street.

This was a Whitehall branch of the largest optical manufacturing concern in the United States. Ten men were employed at grinding, edging, drilling, and buffing the edges of the glass. It was a distributing point for Vermont, New Hampshire, and New York, furnishing mountings and lenses. The stock was to be shipped to New York. A large stock of lenses were already on hand.

Six edging tables had been set up. Two automatic surface grinders and a ten horse power electric motor was in place. Two men were to cut the stock and do the drilling and eight would perform the grinding. Whitehall would be known as the eye glass capital of the three states.

Up to date machinery was to be used - a Xhamber and Inskeep ophthomometer for measuring stigmatism and Dr. Sings luminous retinoscope to show the exact character and amount of refraction. This was one of the greatest instruments known to medical science.

The Whitehall Independent
February 13 1985

1909
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

At this time Whitehall had a larger population. That would account for the number of professional men that advertised. Under Professional Cards were listed two doctors: Dr. Arthur Falkenbury, physician and surgeon with an office at the corner of Saunders and West Streets and Dr. C.W. Schwartz, physician and surgeon with residence and office on Canal Street.

Lawyer's were more numerous: J. Sanford Potter, counselor at law in Granville; Otis A. Dennis, attorney at law and practice in Courts of Admiralty, in office over J. H. Sullivan's Store (Pippo's); O. F. and R. R. Davis, attorneys at law in the Davis Building on Broad Street; William Sears, attorney at law, on Broad Street; A.D. Bartholomew, attorney at law, at 10 North Williams Street opposite present Elks; T.A. Lillie, attorney at law and counselor, in the Griswold Building where also was Frederick R. Spencer, attorney and counselor.

Here is an unusual one: Johnson Detective Agency, with Frank L. Johnson, manager in Granville who promised legitimate detective work in any part of the world.

The Whitehall Times
June 18, 1987

Town Topics 1914
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A store in the Rush Building was fitted up for a five and ten cent store similar to Woolworth's. It was operated by the C.C. Allen and Company which owned similar stores in Oneida, Silver Creek, and Hoosick Falls. Mr. Moore manager in 1914, moved with his family to Whitehall.

The Whitehall Times
July 2, 1987

Town Topics 1914
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Christmas club was inaugurated at the National Bank in Whitehall in 1913.
A Wet Wash business was established on Wheeler Ave. where family washes were done for fifty cents.

The Whitehall Times
April 30, 1987

Town Topics 1914 - 1915
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Some will remember or will have heard of some of the businesses. One was headlined "Biggest Bottle in Town." This bottle was displayed for many years in the Eureka Cafe of N. A. Siraco on South Canal Street (Broadway). It came from Italy with fifteen gallons of Barbara Wine which was decanted into small bottles. This bottle is, now a cherished family possession in the home of Mr. Siraco's great granddaughter Beth Carroll in Newington, Connecticut.

"Mrs. Murray's Home Made Cookies made fresh every day by Miss Bella V. Henry, Division Street" tells a story. Mrs. Murray was the original candy maker and the Henry girls used to sell her candies, after her retirement the girls took over the business, finally dispensing it from their home on Saunders Street. It was rumored that it was a second recipe that was used. George King once said he turned the crank on the peanut roaster for the girls. It is now in Skenesborough Museum with the taffy hook, scales, and wagon.

The Whitehall Times
May 21, 1987

Town Topics 1914 - 1915
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In June the Henry girls discontinued their candy store on Division Street and continued in their home on Saunders Street.

The Whitehall Times
May 21, 1987

Town Topics Advertisements 1914 - 1915
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Mrs. M. Miller had Lady American Corsets and the latest creations in suits, coats, dresses, and millinery at 79 Canal Street. That would mean Main Street but numberings have changed over the years.

Besides groceries and provisions and salt fish Henry Neddo sold boat poles and riggings to his customers on Broad Street, now North Main Street.

The Douglass Brothers had a newsroom for magazines, newspapers, and tobacco goods next to the National Bank, now the Town Building. Do you remember the hemstitching Mrs. Douglass had?

In the Tierney Millinery, Mrs. E.F. Roche sold "No two hats alike." James Roche used to point out the building where he was born, the Carrington Block.

The Times building held several businesses at one time or another. One in 1914 was the Sanitary Feather Company where Charles Service cleaned feather beds and pillows at housecleaning time. One wonders of all were the perfect goose feathers that were so light.

F.C. Ryon and Company had a coal delivery place in the vicinity of the present Whitehall Volunteer Fire Company. In 1914 the successors were Adams and Buell where orders could also be taken for C. C. Yemans electric and hand power vacuum cleaners.

Motion pictures were advertised for every Tuesday Thursday and Saturday at the "Old Reliable World in Motion," on Saunders Street west of Key Bank. The proprietor George H. Miller was generous in giving benefit matinees for worthy causes of the Civic League.

Charles Jones had a store several doors south of the American Legion. This section was removed in the realignment of the railroad in 1933. He sold jewelry, guns, and photo material, using the spelling "fotography."

Anyone could purchase a loaf of milk bread for eight cents at the Excelsior Grocery of N. Bottinglieri. The name was on the side of the building on South Canal, later Main Street and now Broadway.

The Commercial Hotel on Broad Street was advertising its buffet lunch. It had rooms for private suppers, and was a rooming house for silk mill girls who came from other places. Does anyone know what its "Swirl in Motion" was? Perhaps, a moving picture place?

David A. Rodd and Sons were master plumbers of steam fitters and carried a complete store of ship chandler's supplies and boat pumps, castings and valves at the junction of Lake Champlain and the Barge Canal.

The Whitehall Times

July 16, 1987

Town Topics 1914 - 1915

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Another use of Whitehall's first name, Skenesborough, was in the Skenesborough Cigar Factory. In 1915 it was owned by Fred L. Albee and located in Cullen Adams' building on North Williams Street. C. C. Adams owned a building just south of the present Elks Home. He had the reputation of being a first class cigar maker. When Mr. Albee first came to the village he was a clerk in Manville's Drug Store. After the cigar making he was a clerk in John Boyd's Drug Store. He was a licensed pharmacist from Albany and after Mr. Boyd's death was the owner of the business. His assistant in the cigar factory was Nelson Fagan, who later owned a fishing tackle place on Pike Street.

The Shirt Factory In

1914-1915

The Whitehall Shirt Factory in 1915 put out a 100 dozen shirts a day. There were about 50 women employed but there was ample room for more and Hall, Hastwell, and Company were looking for more. Manager Miss Munger said that any intelligent girl could make \$8 to \$10 a week. Some of the girls did earn as high as \$12 to \$15. The shirts, a good grade, sold for \$1 to \$1.50.

It was reported that the factory was clean, light, and perfectly sanitary, an ideal place for women to work. Congenial companions were assured as much care was used in the selection of help, only women of good character being employed.

The process of making a shirt was accomplished by the work of many: cutting by pattern, shipping with buttons and lining, laying out the parts into dozen shirt lots, and at least seven operations in joining the parts by as many operators.

The Whitehall Times
July 30, 1987

Town Topics 1914 - 1915
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Advertisers in Town Topics were listed at the beginning of this series.

The last issue contained a great many for South Main Street (Broadway) as the development of the village seemed to be moving south I.J. Persk had the Whitehall Bargain Store. Nichols and Kana were agents for the Marble City Laundry and had an ice cream and tobacco store. Taft's haberdashery was on South Main and George H. Nichols conducted a lunch room. Nick Delside ran a shoe repairing shop.

The Whitehall Independent
August 5, 1987

Whitehall's Paint Mine and Plant
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Ninety years ago, 1897, Whitehall embarked in a plan for a paint mill project. Many years before that there had been great industrial promise in an iron ore vein. A 75 foot shaft had been sunk to the deposit of ore. It was an economical attempt because of the cost of transporting the ore to the canal or railroad by teams. Years later a paint deposit was discovered in the same vicinity.

After a paint mine deposit in Vermont ran out a search was made for another lode. One was found in Whitehall on the then George Buell farm south of the village on the later Hanford Austin farm on the Granville Road. The bed extended from the bottom of the 75 foot shaft to about 40 feet from the surface along the side of the mountain, according to an early "Whitehall Times" clipping. It was 70 feet or more wide and resembled a bed of clay in color running from a light ochre to a dark brown. The light colors were easy to grind but the dark were heavy and as hard as iron ore. The vein ran northeast to southwest. Another deposit lay 40 rods to the east but was of as good quality.

Two years after locating this vein and after investigating the quality of the resource F. E. Harvey of Sandy Hill the work, an organization was formed with stock and buildings were constructed. A two story one was 40 by 140 feet. The first story was the grinding room with four 12-inch grinding machines. The second floor was used for storage and mixing the different colors. Another room, 40 by 40 feet, had a boiler. The engine room held a 125 horsepower Corliss engine with a twelve inch flywheel. A burning room changed the color to red, and the material then went to the grinding room.

The Whitehall Independent
August 19, 1987

Whitehall's Paint Mine and Plant
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Correction: Those of you who know about Corliss engines know that the size of the one in the paint mill story couldn't possibly be correct. The one used in the mill had a twelve foot fly wheel, considerably larger than twelve inches. Russell Taft, who caught this error, gave some names connected with the paint mill such as Baker and Rich who worked there and the name of the deposit, One Bed Hill. He also provided samples of the one that produced the different colors for the minerals of Whitehall exhibit in the Skenesborough Museum.

Another building, 30 by 50 feet, was used for grinding paint in oil. An early order for the company was grinding a large quantity of graphite for the Japanese government who used it for painting war vessels. The paint produced was used by manufacturers of leather goods and yarn and painting buildings.

How long the industry lasted has not come to light but it gave work to men at the plant itself and to the transporters of the product to the canal and the railroad which seems to have been shipped in bags.

The Whitehall Times
January 9, 1986

Bits and Pieces in 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Things seemed to be looking up economically. The Whitehall Shirt Factory was about to open, according to Fred C. Doren. George H. Weisback of Glens Falls was in charge and would be at the Doren Furniture store to receive applications. He hoped to have 75 to 100 applicants. There was a large advertisement in the Times for several weeks.

Oscar Hagman opened a tailor shop in the old Grand Army rooms over the telephone office at the corner of Division and Main for cleaning and pressing. He lived at 8 Division Street.

The Whitehall Times
January 16, 1986

Bits and Pieces of Whitehall in 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Whitehall Candy Kitchen was under new management in August. There were candies, soft drinks fruits, and our own "Sure Pure" ice cream from the West Haven Farm of the Galick Brothers who were the new proprietors.

The Whitehall Times
January 23, 1986

Bits and Pieces of Whitehall in 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In September there was a strike in the coal mines. The effects extended even to Whitehall. The state had set up a Fuel Administration with representatives that issued rules regulating even the amount of coal that could be put in cellars at anyone time. One was that only a two week's supply could be placed there. The amount of coal already in the cellar was included in the supply that could be put in. It was a news item when forty tons of chestnut arrived in town in mid-September. Also the coal office of the Lake Champlain Coal Company was almost completed at this time. It was considered one of the most modern coal offices in this section. New scales had been installed. Perhaps this was the reason that the large Standard Oil Company boat, Socony 118 left its usual home waters of the Hudson River to come north to Burlington with 650,000 gallons of oil and returned with a load of kerosene. It was the largest boat so far that had gone through the canal, 264 feet long and 40 feet wide and loaded drew eleven feet. The usual boat length was 134 feet.

The Whitehall Times
January 30, 1986

Bits and Pieces in 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A half page advertisement sought to sell shares in the Herzog and Company, Inc. that guaranteed all silk blankets and robes. The president and treasurer of the company was Karl Herzog, who had fifteen years service with the Champlain Silk Mill and National Spun Silk Company. Fred C. Doren was the vice president who was the president of the Merchants National Bank.

Skene Valley Dairy farmer R. A. Norton asked for a share of village patronage of the milk business. He was not cutting prices. His notice stated that it was too expensive for farmers to pasteurize milk but that milk from a tuberculin free herd was acceptable. His milk route would start October 1. He had had a route before but lack of available help caused him to drop it. Now his boys were old enough to help. He urged the use of the right kind of milk as it was the wisest and cheapest to be obtained.

The shirt factory finally opened in the Doren Building with sixty on the pay roll and a complete line of negligee shirts in contract from Yorke Shirt Company in Glens Falls.

The Whitehall Times
February 6, 1986

Bits and Pieces 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Mr. L. J. Comeau was using his red ‘Speed Wagon’ for delivering his combination roll in which a hot dog was completely buried and baked. His invention was given exclusive rights in this territory.

The H. W. Phillips music store became the Wesley J. Falls music store. It now had a piano tuner, Joseph E. Toozer.

The Whitehall Times
February 13, 1986

Bits and Pieces 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

William T. Rowan sold his milk route to Rufus A. Norton. He purchased the grocery and shoe business of Benjamin R. Beckwith on Doig Street.

The Whitehall Times
March 6, 1986

Bits and Pieces 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Lake Champlain Coal Company, dealer in wood, coal, peat, and oil, was incorporated 23 November. Its papers were filed with the Secretary of State with capital of \$25,000 and directors named of D. F. Fitzgerald, E. S. Russell and C. E. Holden.

The Whitehall Times
March 13, 1986

Bits and Pieces 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Clinton C. Yemans in December opened a store in the basement of the Burt Building, formerly occupied by Farrell and Brown. His home had outgrown his business of electrical supplies and appliances.

Eddie Butler opened a dining room for homemade eatables on First Avenue.

Ryan's News Room was opened 16 December in the Knights Building on Main Street. He had for sale newspapers, magazines, cigars, tobacco, Rust greeting cards, candy and both Sunday and evening papers.

The Whitehall Times
November 13, 1986

An Automobile Visor 1931
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In the early years of the automobile, inventions were made for safe driving or for the care of the machine. One such invention was a visor attached to the headlight. It contained amber colored strips to reduce the glare of light from on-coming cars. Such a visor was made in Whitehall. Skenesborough Museum has a display of a complete visor and samples of the parts that made up the whole.

The New England Manufacturing Company, owner of the patent of the non-glare visor, was organized in Whitehall. The company plant and offices was located in the Champlain Transportation Company on Broad Street, now North Main Street. Here machines were installed by March 1931 and the visors were punched out.

The offices of the company were president A. A. St. John; E. Norton, vice president; A. Bush, secretary and treasurer. It was a stock company and several business men of the community owned shares, among them Arnold Clute from whose family came the visor in Skenesborough Museum.

Orders were received for the new device and, according to the American Express Company receipt book, were sent out to Troy, Watervliet, Bridgeport, Conn., Manchester, New Hampshire, and New York City in early April 1931. This receipt book and a newspaper announcing the new firm was preserved by David FitzGerald in papers found in his building. This points up the fact that even a single issue of a Whitehall newspaper is important as the recent files of the Whitehall Times begin with the year 1933. David also learned that the company existed only two years as a newer invention placed the visors in the frame of the cars.

Proof of the actual use of these visors came from Russell Williams, who visited an old car exhibit in Albany during its tri-centennial celebration. There a restored 1932

Plymouth Roadster PB, called the “Collegiate Special,” was on display. It is owned by restorer Art Connery of Green Island. The car had a brief production run of six months. Mr. Connery called Russell’s attention to the headlight deflectors with the stamp “New England Mfg. Co., Whitehall, NY. Patented.” It has a rumble seat and two spares in wells on either side of the engine hood, which gave the machine a sporty look and appealed to the college crowd.

The Whitehall Times
September 26, 1985

Bits and Pieces 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

This was a year of thick ice. Ice houses were being filled with cakes twelve inches thick. Benjamin Wheeler, son John, built an ice house between the eastern and southern railroad bridges. O.A. Horton, Jr. up to now was the only ice dealer in town.

James H. Riley became ‘president of the Directors of “The Line.” Clarence E. Holden had sold the buildings of the Lake Champlain Transportation Company and retired from that business. He took over the Lake Champlain Coal Company.

Fred C. Doren of the Whitehall furniture and hardware concerns bought the Burger Furniture Store in Glens Falls. He was associated with his brothers in Whitehall and had recently acquired the controlling stock in the Merchants National Bank (Key Bank) from R. H. Cooke.

The Whitehall Times
October 10, 1985

Bits and Pieces 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

An advertisement of Charles Chang stated that he had a Chinese laundry in the basement of the Whitehall Times building where collars, shirts, etc. were made clean and white, not yellow.

The Whitehall Times
October 17, 1985

Bits and Pieces 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Nicholas Bottiglieri and John Rimola purchased the Knights property of the old barber shop that stood on Main Street adjoining Riverside Park. They planned to build a modern business block.

Dollar Days were the talk of the Town for 24-25 February. Big advertisements filled the pages of the Whitehall Times telling of savings in all things. Besides the regular stores of the merchants taking part were these not so commonly listed: H.W. Phillips music store; Falls and Annable; Bernadette's Hat Shop; Minch's Store; Sanitary Meat Market; Mrs. P.H. Leonard; United Sales Company; Staftord and Fontaine; Miller's; 1. J. Persk.; Swan's Market; D.A. Forbush; Comeau's Bakery.

O. D. McFarren started a milk route in the village. The price was ten cents a quart, down from the former prevailing cost of thirteen cents. Greenwich price was also being lowered.

The Whitehall Times
October 24, 1985

Bits and Pieces 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

William T. Burns purchased the Jesse E. Walker property, a building on Main Street near the junction of Church and Main. It was a building occupied by the A&P Company and the Prudential Insurance company, a wooden building built about 1912. Mr. Walker, a businessman in Whitehall for many years, moved to Springfield, Mass. Many will remember his yearly visits to Whitehall where he wandered to all the haunts of his youth. He was fond of telling that he and his friends used to use a boat on the water between the railroad tracks north of Bellamy Street toward the present road north. Many ducks swam on this water space.

Nath Beckwith advertised in the issue of 9 March. He wrote that he was the first man in town to "change from the sloppy unsanitary method of dipping milk to the bottled way. I have a building and a plant built and installed expressly for the purpose separate from the other farm buildings standing by it self, thus insuring against contamination. Every bottle is thoroughly sterilized and all my bottling is done in the plant no where else. My milk has a reputation of staying sweet that is unsurpassed and there is nothing put in it--My price is 12 cents, but I consider bottled milk is worth 2 cents more a quart."

The Whitehall Times
October 31, 1985

Bits and Pieces 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The J.H. Sullivan store building was remodeled by Fred C. Doren. This was the present Pippo building. Mr. Sullivan had built it soon after the Hall Hotel had burned in 1876. The ground floor was lowered two feet to sidewalk level. The lower front was entirely changed and plate glass windows were installed. Old pictures show it with steps leading up to the first floor and awnings, a common feature of the stores of that time and coming into prominence in present rehabilitation.

The Dean and Carswell Battery Service was opened in the A.D. Bartholomew Building 27 March at the corner of North Main and High. It represented Williard Storage Batteries, repaired, recharged, and rented.

O.A. Horton resumed delivery of ice for the season of 1922 as orders were received. Mild weather demanded it. In spite of rumor he was still in business. Horton ice from East Bay was considered superior ice.

The Whitehall Times
December 12, 1985

Bits and Pieces 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A new restaurant opened 2 August in the Siraco Building on Main Street: formerly the Stafford and Fountaine Millinery Shop. The building had been put into good shape with up to date equipment. Tony Scrimo, its proprietor, named it the Park Restaurant and promised first class service with lunches at all hours up to midnight and regular meals at stated times. A specialty was spaghetti made on request.

The Whitehall Times
December 19, 1985

Bits and Pieces 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Athanasias Pagones, proprietor of the Candy Kitchen on Main Street, applied for an auto bus line between Whitehall and Glens Falls.

The Excelior Restaurant and Grocery was opened 2 September on Main Street. It featured a cooling system to cool the temperature by artificial means. Bottigliere and

Romalo occupied the first floor with a full line of meat and groceries. James Nolan was the meat cutter.

P. Practico opened a store in the former Temple House, No. 1 on Division 26 September. He was to handle shoes, men's and boys' pants, and dry goods.

In August Guerdon Hardy took over the tobacco, candy, and ice cream store of James Hardy to conduct it himself. Guerdon was the proprietor of the jewelry store at the corner of Main and North Main. A year before he had purchased the old Jillson block (present Chase's), razed it and erected on its site a brick building. Mr. Hardy used to tell of the 1812 English coin he found in the front of that old building. It was called the first brick building in Whitehall.

William J. Ryan built a ferry boat for George W. Stewart of Ticonderoga. He planned to tow it to Ticonderoga and put in the power plant and other machinery himself. The new boat was to be twice as fast as the old one and make the crossing between Montcalm Landing and Vermont in seven minutes.

The Whitehall Times December 24, 1985

Bits and Pieces 1922 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Young Paul Ryan opened a news room on Main Street. His specialty was to deliver personally the morning and evening papers to his customers.

The issue of 21 December announced the intention of H.B. Martin to sell his grocery and wood business on South Main Street (Broadway). A few years previous the building had been rebuilt and remodeled throughout. It housed the store and living quarters for two families. A large wood yard was located to the rear. Later the grocery was run by Claude Havens and then turned into an apartment.

The Whitehall Times April 12, 1984

1926 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Rufus A. Norton sold his milk route to his brother John Norton. The same grade of milk was promised.

The Aiken Restaurant on Main Street changed proprietors. Charles Kelly and Ted Austin leased it from George Beckett, who had leased it from Richard Aiken some time before.

Frank Russo sold his general store on South Williams Street to George Perry and Stewart Jillson, to be known as Perry and Jillson.

John McCabe expected to open a cigar store in the Sidur Block.

Romeo F. Rocque purchased the Whitehall Steam Laundry on Wheeler Avenue formerly owned by Alpha Normandin. He offered delivery and pick-up.

**The Whitehall Times
September 9, 1977**

**United Sales Company
Whitehall, N. Y.
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Where? When? That such a company existed is demonstrated by the Mail Order Shoppers' Guide. "Catalog of a Thousand Bargains." There is no date or address on the catalog. Word of mouth says it was located in The Whitehall Times building where James Roche found several copies of the catalog.

Some of the articles for sale listed in the index give a clue of the time. Under notions are two-inch plus powder puffs for 10 cents. Under provisions is a special offer: If two pounds of coffee or five pounds of tea were purchased, ten pounds of sugar could be bought for two cents a pound.

Household specialties had a practical lamp chimney cleaner for 9 cents; a refrigerator basin alarm to warn against icebox overflow for 69 cents; a butter merger, a glass jar with shaft and dasher that would mix one pound of butter and a pint of milk to make two pounds of butter for only 59 cents, a vacuum clothes washer for 59 cents that would separate the clothes from the dirt.

Ladies tea aprons with lace or insertion were only 15 cents while ladies dust caps were 12 cents. Books and sheet music were plentiful. Gift articles chosen could be postcard albums, 65 cents, or an electric walking cane for \$2.50.

The introduction read, 'If you have never purchased any goods from our house, we solicit your trial order and will endeavor to give the same instant attention and to please you beyond a doubt because we want your permanent patronage.'

**The Whitehall Times
December 12, 1974**

**Whitehall, 1974
A la Whitehall, 1874
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Anniversary Bells Don and Ruth Scribner, Dec 17

Whitehall, 1974 a la Whitehall, 1874, at Christmas.

In the 1870's, The Whitehall Times described in its columns the wares of the merchants and businessmen about town. At the risk of omitting some names, which will

be entirely unintentional. (Would you believe there are over 125?) We'll try to imitate 1874's columns with present day names.

Christmas! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!" exclaimed a little chubby faced old man as he drove into town behind a team of eight tiny reindeer. "Ah! Here is The Whitehall Times office. In I must go and get a paper to see who the live merchants really are." And he talked mainly to himself as he laid his plans.

First I must have a bank to deposit my funds and at the same time open an account. I see there are two banks in Whitehall — the National Commercial Bank and Trust Company and the Troy Savings Bank.

Since I may have to stay overnight with all my shopping I have to do, I must make reservations. Let's see there's the New Arlington Hotel and what's this? Must be a new word for lodging — motel — the Redwood and Whitehall motels are listed.

Clothing — warm, pretty and useful — include boots, shoes and hats is a big item on my list. I can get a variety at Army and Navy Store. Barbers Clothier, Chase's Market, Marion's Dress Shop. J. J. Newberry, and the Thrift Shop and I can order some from Ward's and Sears catalog services. I shall have Arv's Dry Cleaners and Laundromat spruce up my last year's clothing while I'm shopping.

People do love to eat and this year especially gifts in that line should please so I'll go to the Butcher Shop, Champlain Beef, Grand Union, Jumbo's IGA, Foodliner, Putorti's Broadway Market, and Stewart's Bread 'n Butter Shop. I'll order plenty of milk from Rivette's Dairy for the children.

A little good wine will go well with Christmas dinner for some families and I can get that at Fragnoli's and Pippo's stores.

After eating a huge Christmas dinner, of course, the grown-ups will need some drugs or medicines and Woodcock's Pharmacy will be the drugstore to visit.

I must call and engage a doctor to attend the little ones who may eat too much. Let's see — there're Dr. Jay Edison, Dr. Joseph Foote, Dr. B. L. Kellogg, Dr. Erich Seligmann, Alex Manuele, physiotherapist, might help me. While I'm about it I'll engage Dr. Reginald Carroll and Dr. Arthur Yellen to check the little ones' teeth and Dr. Norman Drew, their eyes.

It seems cold for this time of year. E. & R. Beckwith, Inc., Lake Champlain Coal Company, D. J. FitzGerald Coal Company and Texgas Corporation will supply fuel for me.

Some of my patrons have been talking about new furniture and appliances which I know I can find at Bar Stool, Texgas Corporation, Scott's Furniture Store and J. & B. Appliances. Ross Furniture store is the place to take their old furniture.

Gerri's and Tony's newsrooms can make many happy with newspapers, periodicals and books while they sit beneath roofs made by Keller.

Women folks will enjoy having beauty appointments so I'll get in touch with Adelaide's, Alta's, Barbara's, Marguerite's, Nancy's, Pauline's, and the New Woman.

The same is true for men folks who can go to Joe's, Belleville's, Kelley's and the Hollywood.

Younger folks probably think my way of traveling is too slow. I'll see F. H. Kingsley & Sons, J. Walter Newell Garage, and Stevens and Barber Garage for new cars and Champlain Power Equipment and Norman MacLeod Saw Shop for snowmobiles. For service and gas I'll send them to Buxton's, BP, Chevron, Compitello's, Leo's Texaco,

Guy Newell's, Martell's Mobile, and Whitehall Shell. For auto parts they will go to BelMar Auto Parts Inc., and Whitehall Auto Supply.

Whitehall is a good place to live. Perhaps B & D Builders and Development, Champlain Valley Real Estate, and Whitehall Mobile Homes can help me find some places in which people can live. While I'm about it, I must see where I can find some lumber. Champlain Valley Lumber Company and Norman MacLeod Saw Shop seem to be the best places for that.

This would be a good time to find out the construction companies. I see there are Soothcage Brothers, and Terry Masonry & Construction. I could use Al-Jean Trucking also.

Christmas is the time to send greetings to old friends. I'll need lots of cards from Grand Union, Sach's Jewelry, Scime's Flower Shop, The Whitehall Times, and Woodcock's Pharmacy. I must remember the stamps at the post office and mailing early.

(More to come)

The Whitehall Times December 19, 1974

Whitehall, 1974 A la Whitehall, 1974

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

As Santa continued his planning he noted two other beauty parlors that beauty appointments could be secured from: Dixie's and Gail's.

Sweethearts, special friends, and family can have a touch of beauty in colorful blossoms from Scime's Flower and Gift Shop.

Both women and men like jewelry so I'll see what Brock's and Sach's jewelry stores have to offer. Other places to look are Marion Dress and Scime's.

Men like tools, parts and other pieces of hardware and cutlery items. I'll see what I can find at Agway, Inc., and Pippo's Hardware. Agway provides gifts in farm equipment. Arthur Pippo produces ornamental iron products. Paint can be found at these places and Fragnoli's Variety Store and Gerri's, and I can contract Dresden Paint Company to help put it on.

During the holidays some families like to "eat out" and Whitehall is fortunate to have several places for a variety of meals — Richard Aikens Restaurant, New Arlington Hotel, Duce's Restaurant, Fred's Restaurant, the Liberty Eatery, the Roma, the Silver Diner, the Pizza and Sub Place. In the summer time refreshment can be found at A & W Root Beer Drive-in, Aiken's Frosty Treet, Rocque's Tasty Freez, Sabo's Diner, and Skene Valley Country Club.

Antiques of all kinds seem to be popular and I'll send people to Frank Brown, George Brown, Liberty Eatery, and Mrs. Kenneth Van Tassell in search of them.

I guess I had better go to see some lawyers and let them give me some legal advice. Frank H. Kingsley, Jr., and Layden and Layden have offices in town.

While I'm about it I must get my property and life insured as my policies have run out about now. I'll call on W. T. Burns Agency, Capital District Insurance Agency, Kinner Insurance Agency, Russell Terry, and Edward J. Williams Agency.

Special shops always have interesting wares. Jo Ann's Yarn Shop has needle work of all kinds and provides knitting classes. The Craft Gallery has unique gifts besides giving classes in the arts, and Tapas Inc. Supplies among other gifts, pieces of slate. Around the Corner Gallery will provide frames for pictures of all sizes and Dogs by Helene will provide services for the family pet.

I'll alert servicemen a round town to attend promptly to any emergencies that may arise — Aiken Electric Plumbing and Heating, Alex's Television service, Brooks Electrical Plumbing and Heating, Cable Television, and J. & B Appliances.

Some people feel footloose and fancy free and can travel. Airline tickets can be obtained at Ethan Allen Travel from William Jackson and others can take the Adirondack trains of the D&H.

For those who like to have a social time together. I'll direct them to Eva's Tavern, Cass's, Case's Restaurant, George's Grill, Gordon's Grill, the Meeting Place, and Victory Grill. For those who like the brisk outdoors I'll send to Yell's Bait.

Some places in town don't retail products as such but I'll just drop in on them to give greetings: Ashline Monuments, Champlain Wood Products, Frandino Funeral Parlors, Holland's Vending, Jackson Embossing Company, Jillson's Funeral Home, Pioneer, Production Devices, Paul's Novelty Vending, Riblet, Whitehall Chemical Company, and Whitehall Industries.

When my friends are in a happy mood, they can see how they look by calling upon G & M Photos who can take their photographs as natural as life.

Before I go I'll take subscriptions to The Whitehall Times so that out-of-town friends can also know how Whitehall celebrated the holidays and what a busy place it is.

And so, after a whirlwind of shopping, the little old man jumped aboard his sleigh and was off with his reindeer "like the down on the thistle" shouting "Farewell until next year."

And Whitehallers were left in a happy and reverent mood to take part in the

The Whitehall Times

May 24, 1973

1928

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A recent gift to Skenesborough Museum is a barber chair that must be around 100 years old. With black leather seat and reclining back that has seen wear, with hardwood side pieces, and a metal movable footrest, it delights the small fry for sitting in an "old barber chair" and the adults who can remember when such chairs "looked like that."

This particular chair has been given to the Museum by Joseph Martucci who now has a shop at 212 Broadway. From him, some details in the life of this chair have been gleaned.

By 1928 Larry Doty and Frank Martucci (Joseph's father) were in partnership in a barber shop in the Flatiron Building at the corner of Main and Church streets before the railroad crossing elimination in 1933. Frank Martucci bought his partner's share of the business and went to Saunders Street in the Gray Building (Renois Building) where Fred Rondeau now works. Joseph Martucci came to Whitehall in 1937, learned his father's trade, and set up in business at his present place.

In 1940 Fred Rondeau bought the barbershop equipment of Albert Choppy and set up in business in the place on Saunders Street. At that time Joseph moved his father's equipment from the Saunders shop and placed it in storage on First Avenue. Recently he donated the chair to the Museum.

Through this bit of research other barber's names came to light through information from Mrs. Grace Newell and Daniel Whitehead. At one time in Terrytown the corner of First Avenue and Main Street (Broadway) was known as Clute's Corner.

John Clute had built the structure that is still there. His son Arnold became a barber and on the south side the store next to First Avenue a triangular one story addition was constructed for his shop. When Arnold Clute went to the railroad to work, his place in the barbershop was taken by Albert Choppy who had learned the trade from Arnold. Later Albert moved to a shop on Second Avenue and it was this equipment that Fred Rondeau bought to set up his shop on Saunders Street.

The Whitehall Times

October 25, 1973

1973

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Two storekeepers have instituted a new commercial business within the town on Comstock road.

Rhoda Fink and Grace Batchelder of Gull Bay held the grand opening of their Stitch in Time Discount Fabric last week.

Within the tastefully arranged shop, depending on the accessories of their trade for its decor, one can browse amid the fabrics, dream up a wardrobe, and receive practical advice in obtaining it.

Curiosity prompted the questions, who and why and the answer delights in that it is the charm of our area that draws people to it. Mrs. Fink and her family vacationed here for many years planning retirement but suddenly decided "Why not now?" Mrs. Batchelder, a former beautician in Atlantic City, arrived here eleven years ago with her husband who had retired from military service. Now, neighbors in Gull Bay, Mrs. Fink, formerly associated with Allied Fabrics in New Jersey, and Mrs. Batchelder, a sewing enthusiast, have joined in a new specialty shop in Whitehall. The store is in a building that was rejuvenated for a new business 25 years ago.

In the late part of the 19th century, the land on which this business now stands belonged to a farmer, Charles Johnson. It passed to Gary Barton and then to Albert Chaffee. While Mr. Chaffee owned the farm, he set up a trucking business with Thyra

Kinner as bookkeeper in an office in the house. When a family friend wanted to build a house, Mr. Chaffee furnished the lumber for them. This led to doing the same when Thyrza and Walter Kinner built their home. Mr. Chaffee was now in the lumber business, buying some but logging his own land and planing the lumber himself. A corporation was formed with Mr. and Mrs. Chaffee and Mrs. Kinner as stock holders and directors. It was known as the Chaffee Lumber Company, Inc.

With a growing business more office space was needed. On the knoll south of the Present State Troopers barracks stood the school building of District 22 known as the Juckett District when the 17 school districts of Whitehall were entities. After centralization many of the school buildings were put to other uses. This was the case of School 12, for it was moved to the Chaffee Farm and set up as an office.

As need arose the building was adapted. A new office room was added to the back, the north side was extended, and the roof raised to form a showroom and an apartment. The south part of the main building is what is left of the old school.

Names in this lumber industry are interesting. Mr. Saltys was a first customer. "Pop" Bell made the moldings. Otto Rehm became the salesman. Thyrza Kinner drew up the blueprints.

But times change, Mrs. Kinner withdrew to start her own insurance business. Properties were divided. The family home is now the Cuomo property on which has been built the Champlain Beef Company building. The building business has long since closed its doors and now the building is being put to use by the Stitch In Time Discount Fabrics.

The Whitehall Times

October 5, 1972

1914

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Antique dealers and flea markets have a fine market in old tin containers with even a shred of advertising on them. Their use is to provide ideas for commercial advertisements of the present day writers. Could they glean thoughts from the newspaper advertisements of Whitehall's papers in 1914?

Charley Jones

Fotographer

You no longer need to cut a pole

To fish with when Jones sells a

Guaranteed Steel Rod.

Ladies, Your Attention one Moment, House Cleaning Season is Here Again. Have your Feather Beds and Pillows Cleaned by the

Sanitary Feather Co.

Times Building

Twenty-Five Cents

Will Buy at
Henry Neddo's
3 cans of corn
3 cans of tomatoes
3 cans of peas
3 cans of any kind of soup
3 cans of sauerkraut
Remember, we give as much sugar for a dollar as any store in town.

A LIGHT LOAF OF BREAD
Such as we bake would tempt even the most confined dyspeptic. Try a loaf on your
table. You'll find it is as good to the taste as it is
WHOLESOME AND
NOURISHING
New York Home Bakery

S. K. Griswold
SWEET NEWS
We have bought direct from the factory a shipload of Special Assorted Chocolates.
Put up in attractive Boxes. One pound for twenty-nine cents.

Smashed Prices
We have them here
Best 40 cent teas & coffees
at 25 cents per lb.
The Corner Tea Store

If you have the cash
It will pay you to
trade with
MURPHY & CO.
SPECIALISTS

The Whitehall Times
March 4, 1971

(No Title)
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A recent inquiry concerned glass bottles with the name of John O'Neil on them.
There are two that I know of which are in the bottle collection In Skenesborough
Museum.

One, the older of the two, is seven inches high with short shoulders and is aqua in color. On one side is embossed "John O'Neil, Whitehall, N.Y.;" on the other side is "This bottle must be returned. "Never sold."

The bottom reads HWP 39, doubtless the manufacturer. This bottle has a blob top, meaning that the top was added manually after the bottle was formed in the mold.

The second bottle is seven and a half inches high with Mr. O'Neil's name and address on one side and embossed on the other, "This bottle not to be sold." On the bottom is the figure 8. The neck is longer than the first bottle but also has a blob top. The glass contains bubbles, indicating that it was made before 1900.

Bottle books say that the first one was used for soda or mineral water and the second one for champagne or beer. The value indicated is \$2 - \$3.50, but local antique shops sell them for \$6.

People who remember Mr. O'Neil's store cannot recall whether he sold whiskey in bottles, but since mineral water was popularly purchased before the turn of the century, it would be a good guess that the shorter one held mineral water, and the taller one, beer.

Mr. O'Neil, a civic minded person, had two businesses in the village. One was a coal concern with the sheds opposite School Street on Canal Street (Broadway) near his home in the present Claude Stewart rooming house. His mercantile business was on lower Canal (Main) Street. Here he also had his office in the "Temple of Economy," a three- arched building. The lower floor of this is now occupied by Woodcock's pharmacy and Tony's newsroom.

The Whitehall Times

June 3, 1971

(No Title)

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Edward Pitttnger was a clerk in Harding and Bascom's Store, a forerunner of the Barber Clothing Store. His home was on Wheeler Avenue, north of Notre Dame des Victoires.

Walter A. Warner was in the lumber business of Burdett and Hyatt, located near the railroad station. He was good in both billiards and pool.

Willis G. C. Wood was in the Wood and Hotchkiss Hardware in Fragnoli's Store and later worked for James Doren across the canal In the Scott Block.

Alanson D. Bartholomew was a lawyer and at one time town historian.

Otis A. Dennis was a lawyer and in 1915 a member of the constitutional convention "putting Whitehall and Washington county on the map."

J. Sanford Potter practiced law in partnership with Lillie. His residence was on Mountain Terrace.

Emmett J. Gray worked in the store of his father-in-law, R. M. Witherbee where Brock's Jewelry Store now is. He lived in the house at Gray's Corners.

The Whitehall Times
February 16, 1978

Industries in Wood
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Many can remember the items that were shipped and stored in barrels, kegs and tubs made of wood. This practice necessitated the production of wooden staves. In 1817 a Mr. Langdon had a stave mill near, the sawmill of James H. Hooker. Mr. Hooker also had a store, one of the first in the village to have a brick front, approximately opposite the Beckwith oil business. South of this building on the canal was his saw mill that could have supplied Mr. Landon with the material for his staves. These buildings were displaced by the coming of the canal.

The growth of Whitehall after 1780 was fairly slow for a time but it picked up by the turn of the century. A traveler described the village thus: "The village resembled a large lumber yard from the quantity of wood that was cut up for the purpose of building." In 1812 there were 40 or 50 buildings in the village, a few of brick and stone but mostly of wood. By 1819, according to the great traveler Professor Silliman, there were a hundred dwellings, many of which were built of the abundant lumber.

Houses needed doors, sashes to hold the windows and blinds for functional use, not decorative as of today. These items were products of trade as well as for home use. These must have been made by hand at first for in Coprey's 1849 Gazeteer, 10 carpenters are listed with wood turners and cabinet makers, but no factories. After the middle of the 1800's factories were erected.

Johnson's history tells that the great fire of 1864 destroyed the sash and door factory of Crampton and Abell. This was the fire that destroyed the Wait Carpet Factory so Crampton and Abell must have been on the east side of the creek near the falls.

W. W. Cooke, the great lumberman, erected a sash and door factory on Canal Street which was run by N. H. Ames. This was destroyed by fire but the location was not hinted at.

In 1868 Alexander Williamson built a sash and door factory near the railroad station (which was farther west at that time than now). This was run under the proprietorship of N. H. Ames until his death when it was taken over by Mr. Williamson.

The directory of 1871 lists the established carpenters so long familiar in the building construction: A. H. Hopson, Chandler Hopson, Otis W. Carpenter, John Jalet and Joseph Wilson.

The directory of 1892 lists 44 carpenters not counting the ship and bridge carpenters; that of 1927, 23 carpenters; and that of 1931, 23.

The Whitehall Times
February 23, 1978

Industries in Wood
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The 1860 French Gazeteer said "The manufactures (of Whitehall) consist of lumber, machinery, vessels, boats, carpets and sash and blinds. An extensive lumber trade is carried on with Canada and with ports on the Hudson, Lake Champlain and the Champlain Canal."

This lumber industry resulted in many planing mills with dealers in retail and wholesale lumber. One of the earliest of the lumbermen, Col. Lemon Barns, came to Whitehall about 1805. For the early firm of Melancthon and Jarvis Martin he denuded West Mountain of pine trees and transported 15,000 saw logs to Fort Edward. Between 1824 and 1827 he transported lumber with other produce to Troy and Albany and brought back merchandise as a return cargo. In 1828 he became lumber inspector at Whitehall a position he held five years. Between 1832 and 1835 he sawed lumber in his own mills on 2,000 acres of timber land he had purchased. Later he continued the same line of work in Michigan and Indiana.

After the canal was built, Bradley Wright had a saw mill on the eastside of Wood Creek. By 1837 W.W. Cook had a sawmill and a planing mill on the east side of the harbor. The raw material was brought from Canada by canal boats. In earlier years the timbers were transferred to the harbor from Canada in sailing boats. His mills in the harbor burned in 1842 but were rebuilt by 1843. Later they burned again. Rebuilt they existed nearly to the 20th century. His son W. H. Cook was in partnership with him and Samuel Cook was a wholesale and retail lumber agent.

In 1852 D. G. Percival owned a planing mill on the east side of the harbor, operated by O. F. Blount. In 1878 this was said to be the oldest planing mill existing in New York State. (This seems to contradict W. W. Cook's business).

The 1866 map of Whitehall gave individuals as dealers in lumber, wholesale and retail. Listed were T. Cowen, D. C. Percival, Augustus P. Cooke, A. K. Spooner, Samuel Cook, W. W. Cooke & Son, and T. Barns with George Brett a forwarder of lumber and Alwyn Martin a dealer in lumber.

By 1871 individuals were not listed but firms with the names of these same appeared. Successors of D. G. Percival were Davis, Percival and Griswold. Others were Brett, Spooner and Company; and Manville, Scribner and Co., Manville, Hall and Co. The Polly-Osgood and Co. was near the railroad station south of the village.

By 1892 W. W. Cooke's Sons and Burdett Bros. and Co. were the only two companies listed in the directory. By 1904 Burdett Bros. and Co. and the Whitehall Lumber Co. shared a space in the business manual for Whitehall. In 1927 Edward Shinnars of the Whitehall Lumber Company was the sole lumber dealer and in 1931 this name was changed to James E. Shinnars.

There are many other names that could be added to the list I am sure. I. L. Rush and Frank Ryon were mentioned as dealers in wood. The many small streams of Whitehall

along Comstock road had saw mills in which men of the town worked as boys. Their recollections would be interesting to have.

The Whitehall Times
February 23, 1978

Industries in Wood
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The search for industries in wood within Whitehall goes backward and forward in time. The aforesaid Benjamin Burrough's sawmill, erected at the time of Philip Skene's in the 1760's, was long a landmark in the southern part of town." Besides this one in the town were Silas Granger's on the creek coming down from Hatch Hill, then called Castle Creek, and that of the Gideon Searles, father and son, on the same creek near where the Hatch Hill road forked off the turnpike.

In the 1840's, turnpikes were made from planks, bumpy roads but better than the dry or wet clay ones. The upkeep of these roads, one the Whitehall-Granville and another the Whitehall-Hampton, was maintained by private companies that erected toll gates. Papers show that clergymen, like Cornelius Jones of Bartymytown, and hearses were allowed to pass free.

In the 1850's William Mitchell had an axe helve turning shop. John Chapman had cabinet shops, one of which slid into Wood Creek on the east side shortly after he had moved out of it. Alonson Selden used wood in making his guns. Other cabinet makers were M. Richardson, John Bennett, Curtis Adams, and J. K. Hall. A wood turner was J. Moore while wagon makers were A. G. and J. C. Bristol, and J. Greenough.

One of the first ships built in Whitehall was Skene's schooner, made from 'red cedar that grew in the northeast part of town. In following periods of time Whitehall yards produced the first United States Navy ships, the trading vessels and lake steamers that plied the lake to the 1870's, the canal and tug boats for the canal period, and the motor and row boats of later times. O'Reilly's Canal Boatyard preceded that of Neddo's and was followed by Ryan's. Lotrace rowboats are still in existence and by some are believed to be the first Adirondack guide boat.

Wood products of today can be counted in the Champlain Wood Products made on School Street. Many loggers are still providing logs for the pulp industry. Many other industries in wood probably existed in the village. I have heard mention of the products of matches, clothes pins, and mop handles being produced but haven't been able to pin down the location or producers.

The note that started this bit of research was from an obituary of Robert Irwin. Robert came to Whitehall from Canada where he had worked in a chair factory and learned wood-turning and chair maker's trades. In 1849 he worked for John Bennett in the sash and door factory. Three years later found him doing fancy turning for the architect and builder A. C. Hopson. For a year he worked in a Massachusetts furniture factory but returned to Whitehall to begin turning axe helves in the Fosdick Building. In December, 1855, he built a shop at the east end of the lower bridge to make axe helves and in 1868 he built another shop on the old Phoenix Hotel barn lot. This burned in 1871

and he lost everything. Then he joined with Wrangham in a company called Wrangham and Irwin Match Company and ran a toothpick factory on the east side of the creek.

Robert Irwin is an example of the businessmen Whitehall had in the late 1800's. His home was one of those that was involved in the proposed extension of Mountain Street in 1876.

The Whitehall Times **June 23, 1988**

Whitehall Chronicle in 1870's **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

The Hollister Cheese Factory: By 18 April 1874, a cheese factory association was formed by citizens of East Whitehall and Low Hampton. The eight stockholders were Josiah Peck, Eli T. Peck, Ira E. Phelps, Thomas Leard, Howard Leonard and Walter W. Douglas, of Low Hampton and Sereno Hollister and Harvey Bartholomew of Whitehall. Sereno Hollister became president; Josiah Peck, secretary; and W.W. Douglas, salesman.

The three story factory, 60 by 30, was near the residence of Dwight Hollister; the water supply came from the Hollister barn. The logs leading from the spring to the watering place were tapped to supply the factory. Mosely & Stoddard of Poultney, Vt., dealers in cheese factory appurtances furnished two 600 gallon vats. The boiler was one of Jones & Falkenbury's tubular boilers. Edwards of Utica, a cheese maker of experience, was engaged. The Association started off with milk from about 200 cows.

The Whitehall Times **March 10, 1983**

South of Saunders on Main, 1866 - 1891 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Dating and locating buildings is a rather involved labor, often accomplished by bits and pieces. Newspaper accounts of fires often furnish evidence as in the case of stores on Main Street, south of Saunders Street.

The map of 1866 shows that the predecessor of the Key Bank stood at what would be the corner of Saunders and Main. South of that was the Park House, the hotel that had so many names from 1832 to 1876, two unnamed buildings, John Brett's property which included the present American Legion building of 1860, the Union Hotel, an unnamed one, George Pettibone's, Mrs. Polly's, and one named H.G.

In 1876 the three story Hall House, formerly Parke's, burned. The Merchants National Bank, built in 1873, came into possession of that strip of land containing the ruins of the hotel. In 1878, J.H. Sullivan purchased the northern section and built his grocery store which is now Pippo's Hardware store.

A fire occurred 1 January 1883 which demolished the two buildings to the south of Sullivan's Store and two of John Brett's barns in the rear. The account of this fire adds to the knowledge of former businesses in Whitehall. The north building of the two housed George Knight's Harness Shop, Andrew Carver's Meat Market, Martin Feeley's Shoe Shop, and the unidentified shop of Jay Rich. The building south of that, where the fire started, held Coan's Grocery Store. The Coan's, living on the second story, escaped through a window. As Mr. Coan, the last to leave, reached the ground, the piano crashed through the floor to the store below.

The area of these stores belonged to Merchant's National Bank. In 1890 Martin Brodie purchased land and erected the small building still known as Burns' Newsroom to many people. In 1891, Orville Blodgett and E. Devlin Hendrick purchased the northern section and erected two buildings of like construction. Next to Sullivan's (Pippo's) was E. Devlin Hendrick's Store, now Roselli's and south of that was Orville Blodgett's, now Aiken's or the Cafe Du Parc, formerly called the Rafferty Building.

The two burned buildings were insured by the bank and the contents of them by the occupants. The insurers were S. C. Bull, J. C. Earl and E. J. Baldwin. The bank was underinsured while the merchants were over-insured. Then later Sinnott's Grocery filled the gap between the newsroom and Aiken's and in 1906 the present Town Building was erected as a bank.

This segment of history takes in a section of Main Street south of Saunders, the buildings on which are an important part of Whitehall's architectural history.

The Whitehall Independent

April 20. 1983

Potash, 1800

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Potash was the "cash" crop of early settlers of New York and other colonies. Philip Skene's tenants produced it to send north over Lake Champlain for English trade. The demand for it caused the smuggling between Canada and the United States during the era of the War of 1812 and the Embargo Act. Dr. Allan Everest reports that 30,000 barrels of American potash reached Montreal in 1808.

Young pioneers of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries were able to make it through their first seasons by the use of the "black gold" or potash. The areas of unsettled colonial lands were covered with thick forests that had to be cleared so that they could be cultivated for the crops and animals. The cut down trees were burned, the ashes collected, bagged, and carried by back pack or horseback to markets for exchange for necessities or luxuries at twelve to seventeen cents per bushel. A by-product of this process was the manufacture of the huge black iron kettles or pots, which are often seen now as flower pots on lawns.

Pot ash or pearl ash was used in making fertilizers, glass, ceramics, and pigments. But more importantly it was the basic ingredient for soaps necessary for the cleaning of woolen cloth. Whitehall used it in their later fulling factory. Rome, Florence, and Ghent

in turn held a monopoly on the use of soap in manufacturing woolen cloth, transferring stiff, smelly cloth or raw wool into a supple fine quality product.

Great Britain wished to keep her production of woolen cloth in England. Her forests had long disappeared; but her colonies in America had an extensive supply. In spite of her policy of denying them the ability to manufacture goods of any kind, she urged them to produce potash that would be duty free. This came at a time the young colonists were settling their great wooded areas and could and did produce the pearl ashes. The production of wood ashes from the trees was a simple but a long one. Bounties on its production were an added incentive.

The demand for potash was great: Prices rose; as a result a scientific search for a substitute was instituted. Eventually a chemically produced salt was found and locally made potash declined. We have left only the memories of our grandmothers' or mothers' producing soft soap or bar soap by using the lye water that had trickled through the household wood ashes.

The Whitehall Times July 24, 1980

Whitehall Republican May 17, 1828 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Henry Wadhams and S.T. Jillson dissolved their butchering, Wadhams going it alone. It may be safe to say this business was near the Jillson Tannery and the land of Williams Street School.

The steam packet Franklin began its trips to St. John's on April 3, an early year. The famed Captain R.W. Sherman was in command, going north on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays and returning Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

J. Tanner opened a coach line to Troy. Three times a week he would leave on the arrival of the Lake Champlain steamer. He would drive his own team and had relays of horses on the road. He would take but four passengers and preferred select parties. This was a time when the swift packet boats were running also.

L. B. Olmstead had a tin business at the sign of the "big coffee pot" nearly opposite the south bridge. That bridge was a road bridge across the canal and Wood Creek at that time. The signs like the tin pot were common in the early years, like the big watch over Charles Pike's Jewelry Store.

Sylvester Steele was running the stone grist mill, and Warren Wright had a carding and cloth dressing and clothing works adjoining the old stone grist mill, Ira Millard's old site. I don't think this was the stone warehouse erected in 1816 as a government storehouse.

The Whitehall Times
July 31, 1980

Whitehall Republican May 17, 1828
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Henry Daniels opened a wagon, carriage and sleigh making establishment opposite Joseph Jillson's tannery (not S. T. Jillson's). This would place it probably north of Wilson alley.

Mahlen T Coon opened a sail loft adjoining one lately occupied by a. Mr. Langdon (inventor of ferry boat mechanism). Mr. Coon was evidently a discounteer as he advertised work for five percent lower than anywhere else.

Penniel and Pardo were continuing their bakery. "at the old stand" — but where? For a short time part of West Street was named Pardo Street.

B. Hatch from Troy opened a hat store where E. Depew was and had hatters, stock and trimmings. But again Where? And James Tierney had a boot and shoe store.

Henry J. Day and Co. opened a blacksmith shop on the east side of the creek "a few rods south of the factory." An 1836 map shows a factory on the east side north of the later silk mill site and south of the steamboat landing but that would be on the harbor.

Daniel Thurston sold out his blacksmith establishment and wanted his creditors to pay him in grain by March 1. It seems legal tender was scarce and grain was used in its place.

Patent medicines were in vogue. George H. Fish sold Dr. Rodger's Vegetable Pulmonic Detergent and Russell's Stomach Bitters. The latter was touted to convert new rum and whiskey into an invigorating stomach cordial.

The Whitehall Times
July 29, 1982

Whitehall in the 1830's
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The leading merchants of that day were Alfred (of the Griswold family of father and sons who were so influential in the economy of the village. M. J. Myers (nephew of Peter H. Myers who built on the corner in the vicinity of Barber's Clothing) the Blinn Bros, (who developed the area south of the then village in the vicinity of the street named for them), and John C. Parke (a noted hotel man and merchant). They kept country stores where one could buy anything from silks and satins down to ten-penny nails.

The drug stores were Keeler's and Mr. Anderson's. The latter stood on the ground now occupied by the hall that bears his name.

"There was but one bank. It was in the old stone building opposite the Clinton House.

The Whitehall Times
July 29, 1982

Whitehall in the 1830's
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The “little old lady under the hill” said the drug stores in Whitehall were Keeler’s and Anderson’s. Since last week’s writing I have found the line of succession of drug stores that occupied Anderson hall.

In 1834 Andrew Anderson moved from the country — on the border of Wood Creek next to a man named Dewey — and bought the drug store of Lewis Keeler. Anderson kept the store until 1844 when he moved to Salem. Dr. Turner then purchased the business and kept it until he sold it to Edward W. Hall the son of Dr. Atherton Hall, an outstanding doctor of Whitehall and father of the sons who built the mansions of the village.

The Whitehall Independent
November 25, 1987

Business in 1844 in Whitehall
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Among the examples of newspapers printed in Whitehall is a single issue of The Whitehall Chronicle and Washington County Advertiser, dated January 5, 1844 and issued on Friday. Since it was from Volume 4 it was a fairly young paper. It was published by H. T. Blanchard, a familiar name in the printing business of Whitehall.

The front page contained, town by town, the accounts of the Board of Supervisors. According to an act of 1839 the name of every person’s account with the Board had to be published. The names of 29 Whitehallers were included business men, professionals, and farmers.

Not much news was printed in this issue but the advertisements were many, and what is fascinating is the business world of the Village. Evidently people did not go to the Post Office every day for Postmaster W.H. Kirtland listed 107 letters not picked up.

In place of garages, auto sales, and gas stations were carriage and sleigh shops. At the east end of the upper bridge Myron Greenough produced carriages and sleighs in his shop. In addition he produced ornamental printing on these besides on boats and signs. Twenty rods west of the Clinton House on Clinton Avenue A. G. Bristol had on hand or would order carriages and sleighs, buggy and lumber wagons, bobbies, lumber sleighs, and cutters. He kept on hand all necessary blacksmith items to repair these items.

Opposite the American Hotel on Williams Street J. VanDyke and I. W. Brown began a Partnership to sell all the different branches of coach, carriage, and sleigh making and all kinds of wagon work and repairing done in wood, iron, or paint.

Whitehall was a lumber center, being called a lumberyard during mid-eighties. A new sash factory was opened by J. Lockwood in the new stone building opposite the grist mill. Here were produced sashes, doors, window blinds, all of which were new products shipped from Whitehall. Low and Rogers sold axes and blacksmith items as accompanying items and M. J. Meyers, plaster and nails.

L. J. M. Stark and Company in the transportation business advertised for 1000 bushels each of corn, oats, and rye, for the canal animals, evidently.

M. Richardson carried on the cabinet business to sell all kinds of furniture. Besides these businesses were House and Turner drug store in Anderson Hall, H. A. Griswold Jewelry Store, Augustus Prime Portrait Gallery, H. T. Blanchard Printing Shop, and many grocery and dry goods stores.

The Whitehall Times March 22, 1984

Wait's Carpet Business Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Recently a former Whitehaller sent the Whitehall Times a clipping from the Auburn, New York "Citizen" of 16 February telling of the closing of Wait's Furniture Store there after 98 years in business. Dorothy Shepard Waldron correctly remembered that there had been a Wait Store on the present site of Barber's Clothing Store.

Tracing the antecedents of this business takes one back to the beginnings of one of the earliest, largest manufacturing firms in Whitehall. The falls of Wood Creek furnished a natural source of water power. The new canal route, the navigable lake, and this power source brought mills to the east side of Wood Creek. One was a clothing mill built by a Mr. Millard.

In 1848 Mr. Millard's four-story mill was purchased by William Wait, who changed it to the manufacturing of ingrain carpets. He ran one of the first large manufacturing establishments in Whitehall, employing between 40 and 50 men for 16 years, when it was destroyed by fire. The loss from this fire to Whitehall was a matter of \$100,000.

During this time, Horace R. Wait, evidently a brother of William, according to the Whitehall "Democrat" of 1853, had established a clothing and carpet store on Canal Street six doors south from Myers Corner (Canal and Broad streets). In February 1877 he purchased the store at Myers Corner and moved his business to it, selling boots and shoes, ladies fine furs, window shades, oil cloth, gents clothing, carpets, trunks and bags. His later source of carpets was from purchases of wholesale lots from other places. Here he stayed until 1886, advertising in one liners at first but gradually extending the size of advertisements until the space filled a good half column of the large newspapers.

In the 3 June 1885 issue of the Whitehall "Times" and "Chronicle," he advertised "A Present for Everybody at Wait's." The same wording was used until 15 July, when he began "H. R. Wait, Pioneer Dealer in Clothing, Carpets, etc." And offered items at sale prices to make way for fall novelties, and the largest stock of gents' furnishings in northern New York.

Not until 16 December did the advertisement tell of his decision: "At H. R. Wait's Grand Closing Out Sale. He desires selling off his entire stock for cash and will insure a quick sale." On 20 February 1886 he wrote, "The Largest - Stock of Goods Ever in Whitehall Is Now Being Sold At and Below Cost." This was a sale of \$30, 000 worth of goods allowing him to close his business so as to leave town at an early day. The next week, 17 February, was the last time this advertisement appeared, but already the business had gone, as a fire broke out at midnight in the store and produced havoc at Myers Corner.

According to James R. Wait Jr., president of the present H. R. Wait furniture store in Auburn, he is closing this business after its life of 98 years. Horace R. Wait had opened this outlet store 1886 for stoves and Nye-Wait carpets, his brother doubtless supplying the carpets from his carpet factory. The business has been carried by Horace's son, J. Reynolds, and grandsons Horace R. II and James, but great grandchildren have other interest than that of the carpet and furniture business.

While in Whitehall, the Wait brothers were evidently active. Horace was an elder in the Presbyterian Church and William, a deacon.

The Whitehall Times

March 29, 1984

The Fire of 1886

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Whitehall has sustained several disastrous fires. Among them are the fire of 1860 that destroyed all the village and town records; the 1864 fire that leveled the large manufacturing center on the east side of the canal; the 1876 that took the famous landmark hotel of many names; and the 1886 that destroyed the H. R. Wait Company and the Witherbee Grocery Store at Myers Corner.

The headlines for this last fire were sensational: Destructive Conflagration, The elements Succumb to Our Splendid Water Works, A Stubborn Fight, But Water Works Victorious, Whitehall's Noble Fire Department Secures a Victory.

The write-up of the event had an almost short story effect: At 12:45 a.m., people were aroused from their beds by the ominous sound of John Chapman's horn, followed by shrieks of the depot steam whistle, the village bell soon joining the chorus with its startling clang, clang. The awakened citizens poured into the streets. The flames were casting grim shadows on Skene Mountain and dense volumes of smoke were flowing out of H. R. Wait's clothing, carpet, boot and shoe house, at the corner of Canal and Broad Streets. The interior of the Wait Building was a mass of fire. Flames leaped from floor to floor and the entire building, with its many thousands of dollars worth of choice goods, suddenly became a seething furnace.

Only recently had a battle been conducted over a new water works. The several hose companies were able to soon have eight streams of water on the flames, and the water supply was adequate to extinguish the fire, in spite of the wind from the west that

fanned the flames. The fire was prevented from spreading from the corner stores because of a recent rain that had dampened the roofs.

The fire started in H. R. Wait's Carpet Store on the site of the present Barber Clothing Store. There were three low stories of brick and stone but at the back was a large story built of wood the same height as the first and second stories. This wood was as dry as tinder, as was the back of Witherbee's building, which had formerly been converted into five stories of bedrooms at the time it was the Grand Union Hotel. In between these two buildings was the brick triangular Jillson Store. These two buildings were on the site of the present store of Chase's.

The next morning the walls of Wait's Building were still standing. The south and north walls of Witherbee's fell in and the village authorities pulled down the front wall. The Miss Jillson Building's first story was not entirely ruined.

The origin of the fire was shrouded. No clue was found, as all traces were wiped out, although some thought a new chisel found by the safe in Wait's the next day indicated inciderism--but if it went through the fire, how could it have been designated a new?

This account tells of the business in Myers Corner, which will be listed later.

The Whitehall Independent

July 18, 1984

Business in 1850

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A scrap from an 1850 newspaper happened to be the page portion that held advertisements. It is interesting in that it gives names not well known in research in the later years.

Dr. A. A. Harrington advertised himself as a Surgeon Dentist providing the best mineral teeth with artificial gums inserted on fine gold plate in blocks of four to twelve @ \$2.75 at his residence one door south of the Academy on Williams Street. This would be the house at the north end of the Long Block.

Nye Andrews and Nye manufactured stoves, hollow ware, plows, steam engines, planting machines, lathes, and copper, tin and iron sheet at their foundry near the steamboat landing which was on the east side of the basin north of the later silk mill.

Dr. S. H. Twichell announced to his old customers that he was still at his office in the old Rock House, foot of Canal Street, where he skillfully and promptly attends to all business entrusted to him, especially children's teeth. He thought this notice necessary because of the fire that had just destroyed the Clinton Hotel on the same street.

The Marble Pillar Clothing store offered a choice assortment of overcoats of every color by the proprietor L. Jacob and Company. The building was the fourth door north of the old Phoenix Hotel at the flatiron building.

E. A. Austin had just returned from New York with an assortment of cloths for summer garments of broadcloth, satin, and velvet for his store opposite Phoenix Hotel. This location would probably be on Broad Street.

John C. Black moved his grocery and provision store to Parke's new building on Clinton Avenue. It would seem that after a fire on Clinton Street building went on.

H. G. Starr moved from Chapin's Place to the old stand of N. Pierce to sell fine manufactured southern and tanned leather. Chapin's Place was at the corner of Division and Canal Streets.

A. Renois had on hand 2,000 bushels of oats for sale and would have a like amount each week. His store was near the corner of present Saunders and Canal Street.

Alexander McGhee, Jr. had a fresh supply of sounds and tongues, dried beef and smoked ham at the lower lock.

Apothecary Hall two doors south of M. J. Myers' store, at the corner of Canal and present Main and Broad Street, was formerly kept by partnership of Samuel H. Kerby and Munro. This drug firm was dissolved and the store will be kept by the firm of Munro and Broughton.

A. Brown opened a new barbershop in Parke's new building erected on the burnt district in the second store where he would welcome old and new customers

J. Dahn and Company opened a tobacco store and factory on Canal Street one door south of M. J. Myers to sell segars and snuff. He had had long experience in Germany and other cities of the United States. In another advertisement he invited the merchants of the village to call on him for supplies from his factory.

The Whitehall Times (Date Unknown)

Whitehall Chronicle in the Mid 1800's Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Recently in newspapers was the announcement that the Wait Carpet Factory in Auburn was closed for good. In "Chronicles" January 1877 paper was an account of this business. Nye and Wait had established a carpet factory. W.F. Wait was from the carpet factory of H. R. and W. F. Wait in Whitehall. W. F. built on the Owasco River several factory buildings from gray limestone on the premises and began business in May 1871 with 50 hands. He used wool from South America, Africa, and Russia. His new designs in carpets were sold in H. R. Waits store in Whitehall in the present bakery.

The Whitehall Times May 5, 1988

Whitehall Chronicle in the 1850's Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Tobacco products: This year Messrs. Dahn and Toben began wrapping their tobacco products in tin foil, a new kind that was not poisonous. Their partnership had begun in August 1855, a tobacco, segar, snuff, and confectionery factory on Canal Street

in the A. H. Griswold Block one block north of the Whitehall Chronicle office. This was before the fire of 1860.

The Whitehall Times
May 5, 1988

Whitehall Chronicle in the 1850's
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A. T. Lyon had established on Williams Street, second door north of the Grist Mill by June 1856 a door, sash, window blinds and framer. This was the era of the lumber industry in Whitehall.

The Whitehall Times
August 6, 1987

Washington County News 1871
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A bonus for advertisers was given in this issue in short paragraphs. Corbett, Eddy and Kingsley (1869) had a drug store in which Corbett made up the prescriptions, a business he had known since boyhood. John O'Reilly was one of the best boat builders in the state. Boats had a carrying capacity, ease of management, strength, and lightness. A. M. Aldrich, a bill poster gave prompt and businesslike service in distributing programs, dodgers, and handbills. Dr. E. W. Gordon was a careful and experienced physician whose specialty was women and children. Joseph Martell, a painter, glazier, and grainer did graining in imitation of oak, chestnut, and rosewood at the Sherman House. D. P. Nye had both a flour and feed mill and a foundry on Williams Street.

The Whitehall Times
August 27, 1987

Washington County News 1871 (May)
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Cullen C. Adams opened a news room at the corner of Canal and Saunders Streets. This was before Hall's Hotel was burned. There was a building at the north between it and Saunders Street.

Remindful that Whitehall dealt in timber and timber products was Irwin and Lac-ease advertisement for their moldings, casings, tool handles, spoke turning at their mill on Williams Street, south of the lower bridge.

In todays would we associate ice with the cubes manufactured commercially. In 1871 there were big ice houses around town that contained big blocks of ice harvested from lake and South Bay and covered with sawdust. So this is a bit of economic history. On 2 May the ice house of the Mutual Benefit Ice Company “Slid” into Wood Creek. Most of the ice was saved.

The list of doctors that served Whitehall is growing in my files. In May 1871 Dr. D. Brayton joined the ranks with his office in the Renois Block with office hours and all hours during the night. His office entrance was opposite Hall’s Hotel, south of what is now Saunders Street. At this same time Whitehall had the services of Dr. Herbert in the same building; H. K. Bennett, office and residence on east side of Williams Street, opposite the middle bridge, a specialist in children’s diseases; Dr. B. R. Holcomb office and residence over H. A Griswold’s Jewelry Store below Chases; Dr. E. W. Gordon, office two doors north of Old National Bank, north of the Anderson Building.

The Whitehall Times
September 17, 1987

Washington County News 1871
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Early businesses of women seemed to be millinery shops. In 1871 Mrs. S. E. Trato added a new one with an ice cream parlor with all flavors on Church Street in back of Hall’s Hotel.

For competition Mrs. G. W. Osborn opened her ice cream saloon on Division Street. She added fruits in season and all sorts of fire works.

T.G. Mabbett moved his Fort Edward Temple of Fashion into A .G. Griswold’s Iron Front Building.

The Whitehall Times
September 24, 1987

Washington County News 1871
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Another woman’s occupation appeared in the village. Mrs. J.A. Moore declared she would make hair into switches for 87 cents per ounce. If the combings had been straightened, she would do it for 75 cents per ounce at her residence on Church Street near the mouth of the tunnel.

The Whitehall Times
August 24, 1972

Washington County News, June 1872
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Burleigh, Norton and Company built a new wharf on the east side of the Elbow connecting it with Cooke's. This made a very desirable place for receiving lumber, a product that was still being brought in from Canada and planed here in Whitehall.

The Whitehall Times
August 31, 1972

Washington County News, June 1872
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The store names are not the family names of today: Mabbett's New York Store (clothing); H. T. Gaylord (dry goods and groceries); O. A. Hall & Co. (hardware); New Cash Grocery, Bakery and Dining-Saloon; M. V. Prindle & Co. (dress goods); Baker Paterson & Co. (boots and shoes); Polley Osgood & Co. (wall paper); Hammond & Sutherland (iron works) Wm. Allen's Blacksmith Shop, J. L. Harrison's Steam Flouring Mill.

The Whitehall Times
May 3, 1973

1873?
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Spring in Whitehall was a time of moving.

Edward C. Pratt, former clerk for J. F. Clark, opened his own ready-made clothing business in one-half of the Renois Block, just north of Hall's Hotel (present Montgomery Ward) occupied by J. & Hall Adams as a boot and shoe store.

James J. Goodale, a former clerk for S. K. Griswold, bought retiring Bradshaw Goodale's brick making business. His advertisement said he would have on hand a large stock of superior brick and cornice brick of all sizes and styles. (Almost every building from the American Legion to the Meeting Place of Charles' Stiles is made of brick).

The young men, O.C. and G. H. Bartholomew, opened the store formerly occupied by S. T. Manville and Co. and will have a first class grocery Establishment.

Mrs. C. H. Hill, late with Mrs. Dunston, moved to Williams Street just north of Mrs. Doherty's to make cloaks, and dresses in the fashionable, manner.

S. T. Manville and Co. located in Vaughan House to sell feed, flour, grain and seeds and have a livery stable.

The new bank of Whitehall at the corner of Saunders and Main Streets was in the process of construction.

F. L. Miller, saddler and harness maker, removed his stock and workshop to Davis extensive store on Canal Street. Increasing business plus out of town orders made him seek new quarters.

J. Phil Graullch, custom tailor, moved two doors north of the Old National Bank (over Barber's Clothiers). -

A new hardware store came into existence, Pierce Cowen and Co. These two names with H. A. Griswold purchased S. C. Bull's equipment.

The Whitehall Times
May 31, 1873

May 1873
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Messrs. Polley, Osgood and Co. were putting up a new store 25 by 50 on the corner of Boardman and Canal Street which they intended to fill with groceries and provisions.

The Whitehall Times
August 2, 1873

July 1873
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Wrangham, Irwin and Co. is now making about 40 gross of matches per day. It is their Intention to make 75 gross. This will add to the business of our village.

The Whitehall Times
November 8, 1873

October 1873
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Wrangham, Irving & Co. is now engaged in manufacturing large quantities of matches, turning out many grosses daily. This is destined to be an immense business in our midst.

L. S. Miller has purchased the interest of A. Therrien of Glens Falls in the manufacture of horse collars and has moved it to, this village. Mr. Miller will sell wholesale as well as retail.

The Whitehall Times
January 3, 1974

December 1873
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The directors of the Whitehall Mutual Benefit Ice company contracted with Henry Waters to fill the ice house and secure same. They elected directors A. P. Cooke (President), B. A. Martin (secretary and treasurer), W. S. Eddy, S. K. Griswold, J. F. Clark, Wm. B. Eddy and George Brett.

The Whitehall Times
March 14, 1974

Our Village in 1874
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Mr. Wilkins of The Whitehall Times was an observant person, attentive to details, and a recorder of note. In March of 1874 he detailed an account of the condition of the village. It was the time when inhabitants numbered 6,000.

The needs of the community, according to Mr. Wilkins, were: Several large factories to use the water power running away, our own capitalists to invest their money in village enterprises, and a large supply of good drinking water.

The advantages of the community which he listed were many: Water power running away; prosperous business men; transportation lines in the form of the nearly completed New York and Canada Railroad north, an enlarged canal, the lake and railroads east and south; extension of the village beyond the depot on the Adams and Blinn farms and development of Poultney Street; many well-to-do farmers and 11 different kinds of trade carried on by the merchants.

The list of businesses is startling but he listed as separate items two or three kinds of businesses carried on in one store.

3 banks and 1 private bank: First National Bank of Whitehall (1864); National Bank of Whitehall (1865) chartered 1829 as Bank of Whitehall; Merchants National Bank of Whitehall (1875) chartered as Bank of Whitehall (1873); Banking House of Bull Brothers. Now we have 2: Troy Savings Bank and National Commercial Bank and Trust Company.

1 newsroom: C. C. Adams. Now we have two: Catones Newsroom and Tony's Newsroom.

1 brickyard; James J. Goodale.

2 weekly newspapers: Whitehall Times and Whitehall Chronicle. Now we have The Whitehall Times.

2 jewelry stores: H. A. Griswold and Chas. B. Pike; now we have 2, Brock's Jewelry Store and Sach's Jewelry Store but Wilkins would have listed others that sold jewelry like Marion's Dress Shop, Scime's Flower Shop and Newberry's.

1 door, sash, and blind factory: Williamson (formerly Ames) near the depot. Hoit's door factory burned in February.

1 boiler factory: Thomas Sutherland near the Northern Transportation Line wharf.

1 gas works: Whitehall Gas-Light Company at the corner of Church and Bellamy Streets.

1 grist mill: Baldwin and Perry on the east side of Wood Creek.

2 machine shops: James D. Hancock on the east side of Wood Creek and Northern Transportation Line at their landing.

4 steam saw and planing mills: A. Martin and Son, Manville, Hall & Co., and W. W. Cooke & Son below the village and Polley, Osgood & Co. near the depot.

5 clothing stores: J. Carmel's New Clothing Store; A. H. Farrington; Edwin C. Pratt; S. K. Griswold; J. M. Skeels & Co. Now we have Barber's, Marion's, Chase's, and Roselli's.

3 coal dealers: H. C. Jillson. H. R. Snyder, Edward McCarthy (the only ones advertised and they were listed in one advertisement); now we have one, the Lake Champlain Coal Company which, because of the energy crisis, is selling coal this year from Elizabethtown to Fort Edward.

31 liquor stores: (Mr. Wilkins said in our list of grocery stores we have not stated that liquor was sold there also but in our list we have made it a separate business) Only two were advertised in the March papers: Lawrence Corbett Drug Store and K M. Farrington.

1 sail loft and rigging store: William Cain.

There are more to add and some that Mr. Wilkins didn't list.

The Whitehall Times

March 14, 1974

More of Whitehall Businesses in 1874

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Anniversary Bells, March 29: Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Barkley; Mr. and Mrs. Perley LaChapelle.

All of these were not listed in The Whitehall Times advertisements.

Two bowling alleys.

Seven lawyers: A. Tanner, J. Potter, Wm. H. Tefft, Robert Doig, O. F. Davis, H.D.W.C. Hill.

Ten lumber firms: Geo. Brett and F. Bascom, P. W. Scribner, A. Martin and Son, Manville, Hall & Co., A. H. Griswold, S. T. Cook; H. G. Burleigh, W. W. Cooke &

Son, Polley, Osgood & Co.
 Three blacksmith shops.
 Four regular canal barns: Northern Transportation Line just built.
 Three flour and feed stores; G.H. & Wm. Bartholomew; J. H Sullivan & Co, 1871
 D. Nye & Co.
 Five dressmakers: Mrs. Knight in 1867.
 Five doctors: Dr. Henry Root, Dr. E. Hebert, Dr. Wm. H. Renois, Dr. E. W. Gordon, Dr. H. J. Ward and Dr. O. H. Mott were homeopathic doctors who came into town at .certain times; Dr. Alfred Long, Dr. Senton.
 Four eating houses.
 Three livery stables: Hall's Hotel livery stable.
 Two dentists: Dr. Win. Smith, Dr. A. R. Eaton was here in 1867.
 One match factory.
 Five drug stores: Dr. Wm. H. Renois, Lawrence Corbett, O. A. Manville, C. C. Adams.
 Three billiard saloons.
 Two wagon shops: Myron Greenough on Williams Street.
 Five boot and shoe makers: Patrick Corbett.
 Twenty-eight grocery stores; H. B. Skeels, G. H. & M. Bartholomew, J. F. Clark, Taylor Manville, S. K. Griswold. H. T. Gaylord. J. H. Sullivan & Co., Orange Collins, R. W. Witherbee, Alfred P. Carver, George M. Chubb; WM. Sinnott, M. F. Nichols, Silas Whitney.
 Five masons and builders: A. C. Hopson.
 Three painters.
 One Supreme Court judge.
 Mr. Wilkins went on to list other of our assets: One each of thee churches, all of which we have kept: Presbyterian, French Catholic, Methodist, Episcopal, Irish Catholic, and Baptist. We have added one Jehovah's Witnesses.
 We have the best school buildings and a corps of as good teachers as the state produces, all under the very best discipline. Our fire department is second to no other village of its size and consists of two second-class steam fire engines, two hand engines, three hose companies, and one hook and- ladder company. There are two brass bands that furnish us some of the sweetest and most melodious music imaginable.
 "There were two large new public buildings, one of these being used by the fire department and containing a large town hall. The other contains the room in which our village fathers meet, the post office, Good Templar's lodge room, telegraph office besides stores and other offices. We are soon to have a large Opera House seating 1500 people."
 Besides these Mr. Wilkins listed the various societies in town then. At present there are over 33 organizations in Whitehall. Who says there's nothing to do in Whitehall? In 1874 there were: Masonic Lodge, chapter and council; Odd Fellows Lodge and encampment; Lodge of Knights of Pythias, St. Patrick's T.A.B. Society; St. Joseph's Society; Post of the Grand Army of the Republic, and a Y.M.C.A.

The Whitehall Times
January 31, 1974

January 1874
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Mrs. Coshburn was ready to do ornamental hair work at her home on Centre Street or at her husband's barber shop over J. H. Parke's shop. This included making switches, Curls, braids, weaving.

The Whitehall Times
June 16, 1988

Gleanings from Whitehall Chronicle March 1874
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Whitehall had lime kilns in the Hatch Hill region. The beds belong to the range beginning at Bald Mountain along Wood Creek, cropping at Dewey's Bridge and into Whitehall east of Skene Mountain. W. R. Norris first owned this kiln and was bought out by Dewey's Bridge Lime Company. Its capacity had been 40,000 tons. On 17 March 1874 the company became known as Washington County Lime Company with George Brett president; Richard Chapin secretary-treasurer; and George Knights superintendent. H. Remington of Watertown, L. J. N. Stark of New York and E. W. Hall of Whitehall were also in the company.

How's this for fine collecting? An intoxicated man was found on the bank of the canal. He was taken before the judge who fined him \$10. As the man was unable to pay, the judge asked him where he obtained the liquor. He told and the seller was called to court. She appeared and was told that she was liable for the man's fine. She paid. Editorial comment in the paper "This is a good enforcement of the civil damage law."

A new business was opened for the carriage trade. L. W. Miller opened in Davis brick building for the production of carriages and phaetons. He still would keep on with his harness making.

The Whitehall Times
July 4, 1974

June 1874
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Farmer John S. Rogers set in operation a private cheese factory 15 June. He used 600 pounds of milk per day from his 14 cows and 18 cows of Jacob W. and A. W. Clark. The output was 60 pounds of cheese per day.

The Whitehall Times
June 1975

1875
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Pierce and Allen called attention to their new stock of crockery and tin chamber sets, the latter being very handsome and cheap. (One is in Skenesborough Museum).

Mrs. P.A. Dunston has opened an ice cream saloon at her residence over F. J. Clark's store on Canal Street where customers will find ample accommodations and any quantity of this delicious article.

One of the most creditable things done by the proprietors of the Hall House is the purchasing and adding to their livery of a first class hearse.

The Whitehall Times
April 13, 1972

1875
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Recently Mrs. Tillie Bottoni Vawter, a former Whitehall resident now living in Latham, loaned Skenesborough Museum an account book and three certificates of membership in the order of Odd Fellows.

The account book covers the period of March, 1875, to September, 1876. The book presents something of a mystery. On its front inside cover in pencil are the words Rodd's Grocery. The book belonged to David A. Rodd but according to Miss Nina Taft, this Mr. Rodd owned a plumbing business on North Main Street. The ledger itself has no account names by which the business can be known, except two penciled notes, "sugar, oysters, and crackers." It was a "going concern" for the receipts for May were \$5,377.38.

The book is valuable for the names of people and businesses of that period. It did business with steamers. The oftenest mentioned were Steamer Brilliant, Montreal, Adirondack, Weatherbee, Eddy, Bascom, Quaker City, Hooker, Grand Isle, and Molley.

Three doctors were mentioned often: Holcomb, A. Hall and Herbert, and the Rev. H. Finch. The Presbyterian and Baptist churches were also customers.

Hotels, village services and companies were the main entries. These names will be remembered by some in Whitehall through recollections of parents or from records: Northern Transportation Towing Co., Village Water Works, Polley Osgood & Co., Hall's Hotel, Vaughn House, Opera House Hotel. Union Free School, Whitehall Gas Co., Dyer Farm, Wilson & Irwin, Polley and Falkenbury, D.& H. Canal Co., H. G. Burleigh & Co., Baker & Carrington, Geo. A. Hall Store, Jillson & Stewart, Tisdale & Cook, Brett & Bascom. Would all of these be buying groceries?

These individuals would have purchased provisions but as one examines the names, he finds that many of them were those of business people: A. C. Hopson, E. E. Davis, N. Vannier, Julius Lature, Helen Knights, Mrs. M. Dill, Andrew Williamson, Frank Hotchkiss, S. Hollister, Wm. Frazier, A. Rathbone, H. D. W. C. Hill, John Clute, and David Offendsend.

The first pages of the ledger contain scrapbook material. The person who started the scrapbook was interested in the Vannier Hose Company. This company offered the public in Whitehall and surrounding villages some minstrel entertainments. He was also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

The book will be on display this summer in the Museum.

The Whitehall Times **May 11, 1972**

1875
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

An interesting and welcome commentary on a recent column came from Daniel Whitehead, a former resident who has returned to Whitehall to live. With his permission I shall copy it. Comments and information like this are what will make the story of our historic town more complete.

This (account) book indeed is something of a mystery, unless there was another David Rodd. Miss Taft is correct. Mr. Rodd had a plumbing business when I was young and I remember him very well. He lived on, Queen Street, the fourth house up from West Street on the left hand side of the street. He was also very active in the Odd Fellows Lodge and was an officer when I knew him.

He had a son, Andrew, and a daughter, Marjorie, who was about my own age. On that basis and going by my own father, who was born in 1862, it seems unlikely that he would have had a going grocery business in 1875.

Most of the names mentioned were well before my time but are some that I knew are Dr. Holcomb and William Frazier, who in partnership with Willis Fisher had a livery stable on what was then Church Street. The entrance was on Saunders Street about where

the south wall of the overpass is now. It was later operated by The Finch Brothers, Van and John, and eventually was operated by them as a garage.

John Clute was one I knew as a boy. He operated a grocery store on the corner of Broadway and First Avenue last occupied by the "IGA". He originally lived on a farm in the Putnam Valley. Whether he was in the store in 1875 I do not know. He was the grandfather of Grace Newell and Perry Clute.

Many of the names of individuals and firms are familiar, as my father knew most of them.

Miss Mae Finch loaned the Museum a picture of that livery stable of her parent which has been copied. It has a picture of a horse with the word Livery on the front.

The Whitehall Times
July 24, 1975

June 1875
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Mrs. P.A. Dunston has opened an ice cream saloon at her residence over F J Clark's store on Canal Street where customers will find ample accommodations and any quantity of this delicious article.

The Whitehall Times
February 5, 1976

February 1876
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Lemuel Manville opened the store lately occupied by Taylor Manville in the Vaughn House (Chase's Store site). He would sell groceries and provisions.

The Whitehall Times
May 27, 1976

May 1876
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Irwin and Wilson were enlarging their scroll work facilities by adding a frame building on the east side of Wood Creek, with Baldwin and Perry erecting a grist mill north and adjoining the Wilson factory. The Opera House was adding ten rooms to their building.

The Whitehall Times
August 26, 1976

August 1876
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

R G. Dayton's brick block was erected at the lower end of Canal Street.

H. G. Tisdale has extended the wooden building on what is known as the "heater" at the junction of Canal and Church Streets, about 15 feet south Mrs. Millett occupies the building.

A. C. Hopson has received the contract to build the new Catholic Church in Ludlow, Vt. He is the architect and builder of many of Whitehall's buildings.

James Hancock, a live go ahead man has placed a turbine water-wheel in Wood Creek opposite his machine shop. It will supply power to Mr. Hancock's Machine Shop, to Baldwin's and Perry's grist mill, and Irwin and Wilson's shops. (It started operation 17 August.)

The Whitehall Times
September 23, 1976

September 1876
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Dayton block on Broad Street, with a hardware and house furnishings store, was completed. A. C. Hopson was the builder with Marcellus Smith.

Canal and Canal Boats

The Whitehall Times

March 29, 1979

Canal History

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Whitehall is the starting point of the canal trip pictured by William J. McKelvey, Jr., in his second book on canals, **Champlain to Chesapeake: A Canal Era Pictorial**.

Enamored with the canals of the eastern seaboard of the United States, Mr. McKelvey has collected hundreds of pictures about canal life. He has sought information from canal personages, newspapers, ledgers, diaries. He is now presenting them in orderly fashion in pictorial books.

The first picture in this book is reminiscent of the days when Whitehall was a 'lumber yard.' Sloops rigged with sails navigated Lake Champlain with lumber loaded in Canada. They traversed the lake by means of the sails. In reaching the Whitehall harbor, the sails and mast were removed and the boat load entered the canal for southern markets.

Other sloops brought undressed lumber from Canada. It was unloaded at the mills on the "Island" and planed before being sent south.

The second picture is the familiar one of a tow on the lake accompanied by a sloop and a tugboat. **The George W. Gates**, built in Whitehall in 1878, is one of the canal boats.

The fourth picture is one showing a 30-boat tow loaded in Canada on its way to the Whitehall terminus. Whitehall had several boat yards in which many canal boats were constructed. Newspaper accounts often list five or six in the yards at one time. The seventh picture shows two such boats, the **Robert & Mary** launched in 1887 and the **W.N. Sweet** in 1902. Both were built in Whitehall though their home ports were elsewhere.

The eighth picture is a new one to some of us. It shows the harbor of Whitehall where tows were formed or broken up. This is at the canal lock with the silk mill at the right and the "Island" with its smokestack in the background. One canal boat is the **Elizabeth Groves** built in Whitehall in 1908 and in service until the close of World War II. To the left of the picture other boats are shown tied up in a row. Another view of this is the tenth picture. There is a good view of the silk mill and in the background the booms used in building the Champlain Barge canal are in evidence. The boats extended across the whole harbor.

The two most familiar pictures of the canal are shown in the one of the old canal with the Flatiron Block that was torn down to allow the state room to build the new canal and the view of the canal with the towpath looking north to the change bridge.

Whitehall's locks were 21, 22 and 23. Fort Ann's were 16, 17, 18. Captions give canal information. From Mr. McKelvey's research, he reports that in 1820 only eleven inhabitants in Whitehall were engaged in commerce, but by 1900 over 70 per cent of its

business and industry was directly laid to the canal and lake. The locks 16 to 23, from Fort Edward to Whitehall, were descending locks. He mentions the fact that Fort Ann had barns for mules. Herbert Case told that one of his early memories was the time in the spring when mules, tied in strings of 14 were brought from the farms around Whitehall to the barns in the village.

Other pictures all the way to Chesapeake are of interest to the canal enthusiasts but others will enjoy them also. Mr. McKelvey living in Bloomfield, N. J., is still collecting and will doubtless produce more pictorial books on his hobby. He tells me the cost of this book alone was \$30,000. His ending sentence in the forward is 'May you have as much fun reading and viewing this book as I have had assembling and writing it.'

He also said "My initial efforts appeared in 1975, **The Delaware and Raritan Canal:**

A Pictorial History. In its forward, I pleaded for more photographs. As manna came from heaven it rained photographs."

This experience is what every town and village historian wishes would happen. This historian is in a position to have original photographs copied without harm and would welcome pictures of Whitehall on all topics.

There are so many that I have heard of and occasionally seen that other printed collections could be made. Whitehall has other history than the Navy, The great transportation eras are several stories in themselves, for example.

The Whitehall Times **May 11, 1978**

Our Original Lake Champlain Canal Bed **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

The route of the old Champlain canal has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

As we know, the Town and Village of Whitehall have walls of the original canal and its route to that can be clearly traced across the meadows to the south. Wishful thinking on my part for many years has been that a part of this could be dammed, filled with water to become a tourist attraction with mules and a canal boat to take passengers for a ride. To the south the canal route is in private hands and of course such a project would take money.

Citizens have been reporting to me that the old canal wall along Riverside Park is being loosened by youths of the community. Why, is anyone's guess? Another section of wall, and an interesting one, is along the Tow Path near the sewage plant. That too must be protected if we save this bit of history in our town.

Other places along the old canal route have been improving sections of it. Notably Fort Ann has dug the debris of years out of an old lock, landscaped the area and built a bridge across the lock to develop a pleasing picnic area and rest area for tourists and citizens alike. Any interested group in Whitehall could do the same.

Miss Elizabeth McSweeney of Hudson Falls had enjoyed the pictures in Day Before Yesterday. She comments on the one of the skaters on the canal. She recalls the pre-1923 time (she says egotistically) when she and Marjorie Meiklejohn, a district superintendent of schools, were the only women who skated above the bridge.

A painting of a skating scene done by Mrs. Adelaide Lanahan, hangs in Skenesborough Museum. She has related the good times of the 1920's when many young people skated on the cleared ice.

Why is there no skating on the canal? Inquiries have brought forth several answers. One says he thinks it is because the folk are not inclined to shovel the snow off the ice. Another thinks it is a regulation of the State of New York that there is danger in anyone being on the canal. I haven't reached anyone yet in the Transportation Department to see if there is a ruling. I'll keep trying.

George King tells of skating at the edges of the canal where good ice went out several feet from the banks making good skating as far as Comstock. At some times water is drawn from the canal making a pocket that might cave in, I understand.

The Whitehall Times

August 17, 1978

The Old Canal

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

With the construction of the sewage plant by the old tow path and the addition to the Skenesborough Volunteer Fire House, other sections of the old canal are emphasized along with the section that is still seen by the parking lots and River Side Park.

The section of the tow path shows the materials that were put together long before the large earth moving machines were in existence and the tools that could lift and place the large blocks of stone into position.

The early Champlain Canal route is on the National Register of Historic Sites. The last sections of the old canal are being preserved and made available to citizens and tourists throughout the county. The amazing five combines at Fort Edward are being rescued from a dumping place. Bicycle paths are being planned on the old tow paths. Fort Ann has emptied one of its locks from debris and with a bridge over it has a peaceful picnic site for the public who are using it. The route of the early canal is the theme of a display of the Washington County Historical society that will be at the county fair next week.

The history of the early canal has to be pieced together. The state legislature authorized the borrowing of money and the acceptance of grants of land for the construction of the Champlain in 1812. The work had to be delayed until after the War of 1812. In 1816 the building was authorized.

The first canal was 40 feet wide at the surface, 28 feet at the bottom, and four feet deep. The construction was begun in 1817 and by November, 1819 boats passed from the Hudson River to Lake Champlain.

The early canal entered Washington County above Fort Miller and continued along the east side of the river by Moses Kil to Fort Edward. Here it crossed into the valley of Wood Creek which it followed to Whitehall, sometimes using the stream, sometimes cutting across the many meanders. Places along the route were Glens Falls feeder, Baker's Basin, Smith's Basin, Fort Ann, and Comstocks Landing.

The early canal was kept up by tolls which were supposed to be used only for its maintenance. Fort Edward Historical society in July cut the ribbon for the Toll House which it has preserved on the grounds of the Old Fort House. Across the road a research center is using the old Canal Building as Whitehall is using the canal building for a museum.

Between 1835 and 1862 occurred enlargement of the canal. So successful was the canal that users of it demanded and received in 1884 free tolls, the upkeep of the canal being taken care of by the state. At the turn of the century greater changes were made in the size of locks and routes along the way. At that time Whitehall's three locks were replaced by Lock 12 and the canal moved eastward into the basin of Wood creek.

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

From the Lock to the Bridge

Lock 12 of the Champlain Barge Canal System lowers boats fifteen and a half feet from Wood Creek and the canal into the Harbor of Whitehall. Opened in 1912 it took the place of former Locks 21, 22, and 23. The early Champlain Canal opened in 1819.

On the left of the Harbor can be seen the large peculiar coal shed and the office of the former Lake Champlain Transportation Line, remnants of the great transportation era of Whitehall.

To the left also is the route of the natural lake used in transportation before the canal, straight ahead was dredged and opened in 1919.

On the right of the Harbor are the ruins of the Champlain Silk Mills, a monopoly silk industry in Whitehall from 1874 to 1932.

On the right is East Bay into which flows Poultney River. It is in this river that the remains of Thomas Macdonough's American and British ships from the Battle of Plattsburg in September 1814 were scuttled and allowed to sink. One, TICONDEROGA, was raised during Whitehall's 1959 bicentennial and is now behind Skenesborough Museum. From 1814 to 1825 these ships had been under active naval supervision along the west shore of the lake.

On the left the natural lake flows around the point of land called Fiddler's Elbow, generally the Elbow. Around this point of land the lake boats on their way to the Harbor had to be warped. The canal boats were kept from being grounded by men with pike poles.

This point of land extending northward was the site of Whitehall's early boat yards.

On the left is a formation of rock sloping into the Lake known as Put's Rock after General Israel Putnam. In 1758 during the French and Indian Wars, he with thirty men on this rock killed over half of 509 French soldiers ambushed in the narrow lake below. Putnam's forces escaped with only one casualty.

The east shore below East Bay is in the state of Vermont. Glimpses of a road may be seen leading to the Galeck farm, which includes a milk farm. Egress from it in winter used to be on the ice. In certain seasons the only access to it was by boat. On this section of the shore are wooden fenders used to keep boats from the rock ledge.

The railroad that you see glimpses of on the left is the Delaware and Hudson. This section of the line was built northward in 1873 to 1874. This caused the end of the lake era in Whitehall.

The bridge crosses the exit of South Bay into Lake Champlain, used also in the pathway of early Indians and whites between Canada and the south.

This narrow part of Lake Champlain from Whitehall to Ticonderoga has been called on various maps Wood Creek, North River, South River.

The Whitehall Independent

February 17, 1988

A Packet Trip West in 1834

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Packet boats were the canal boats that carried passengers on the "Big Ditch" from Whitehall to Buffalo in the thirties to the fifties when the railroad put them out of business. This is a letter from a passenger who made a trip on the Champlain and Erie Canals.

July 13, 1834

Dear Annie,

I have not forgotten my engagement and will endeavor to fulfill it as far as I am capable. Five weeks have elapsed since I last saw you, and my eyes have witnessed many eventful things: and will now relate some of these particulars. I left home Tuesday morning; at 11 o'clock I was in Fort Ann, and waited there very patient, until the boat came along Thursday afternoon (I think she left at Comstocks Landing as it was called then). You must think the time seems long; not a person - there I ever saw before - except Jacob and Lucy Clark; Thankful would not wait but took an earlier very crowded boat but we overtook them Friday and they came with us, as it was the last boat. On it was Mrs. Harrington an old acquaintance - was going to Brockport, and I was pleased to see a face I had seen before.

There were 7 young ladies on the boat most of the way, and we passed the time very pleasantly, much more so than I had expected.

There were 100 and 50 passengers, 30 of them children, as it was fair most of the time we could stay on deck. It is slow sailing on a canal but pleasant with good company. Our Capt. was a fine fellow and I liked the cook. Mrs. H ----- was acquainted with her.

There is a great deal to be seen, more than I could write on a quire of paper. After we left Fort Ann we sailed to two and one half miles from Troy. We crossed the Mohawk to a place called Junction, or 9 locks, where the canals meet. Two gentlemen invited 7

ladies to walk and see the Cohoes Falls, a short district from the canal; we were fearful the boat might leave us, but they said “no” there were several locks to pass through and we should have sufficient time, and delightful it was with pleasant sidewalks of iron and marble. There is always bitter with the sweet - it was almost dark; we hurried along but the boat had left; one girl lost her bag; such confusion - the gentlemen said “Wait” and let them look for it. We were not willing but went on as fast as possible a distance of one or two miles and were once more on the boat. The Capt. expressed joy to see us return.

Where the canals meet we returned and came west. Next morning was in Schenectady - a small place - we passed many handsome places. Utica we passed in the night. The city of Rochester is the most splendid. While the boat stopped a number of us walked out, into the Rochester House. It is 6 stories high. One went to the top and saw a beautiful prospect of the city. (Continued on the lake).

The Whitehall Independent February 24, 1988

A Packet Boat Journey Continued Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

After sailing 8 miles on the Niagara River, we reached Buffalo in safety Friday morning but it - Buffalo - does not look as well as I expected; here the steamboat had set sail for Cleveland, but was not yet out of our sight. Our captain gave us the privilege of staying on the boat; he also gave us some dinner - one lady and two gentlemen who had been in company with us all the way. We soon learned the boat would sail that evening for Detroit. Our captain went with us to the boat and wished us a pleasant voyage; but we did not take it; we stayed in port. There were then but few passengers and the captain accommodated us with good berths. I had a good night's rest, the first since I left home, but he also gave us a good breakfast and said he would sail that night, that he had never been stopped by wind before, and was sorry to disappoint so many, but I considered it all for the best.

Then I was able to continue and prepare for the worst I ever experienced sailing for pleasure; if this is pleasure, deliver me from it. 9 o'clock Sunday evening we set sail for Cleveland. With high head winds, and them some, 500 passengers and most of them sick; for - myself, I could have been sold very cheap. I was sick all day, and night; went into the cabin once, nearly fainted. Everyone must look out for himself. Saturday morning we stopped at the first port, and the wind abated, but soon again set sail. Finally we landed at Cleveland after 33 hours on the Lake, and a dismal time it was. I was so happy to walk on land once more. Cleveland is a beautiful place, much larger than I expected.

I went directly to a public place, and just happened to go where they could inform me of my friends. Brooklyn is two miles from Cleveland and I was very soon at Uncle's door. They were so glad to see me, and exclaimed over my being so far from home, and alone. First thing was: you must stay with us a year anyway- but I think of returning in the autumn. I like it well, as far as I have become acquainted, I find time passing more than I expected. The people here are

very friendly. At first I was very much fatigued from my journey; my health is good at present. The first 10 days here it rained; since it has been warm and pleasant - -

When Independence Day came every one must do something to celebrate it. Cousin David and I went in the evening five miles north to Parma where they were celebrating by dancing. There were about 30 couples and had 2 violins, played by 2 old gentlemen at the rate of 20 notes per hour, and danced about the same rate. Our stay was short.

I have not said much about this country. I like it well. I do - not see any mountains but plenty -of woods. -- Write me immediately, do not fail --

Your sincere friend, Emily Bidwell

The Whitehall Independent May 14, 1983

A Canal Driver's Record (1863) Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

On 15 May 1863 Dan Childs took a team to drive for Towing Company at Whitehall and agreed to drive until the canal closed unless obliged to quit because of sickness. He agreed to notice and observe the book of rules for drivers. The agreement said the team was in good condition I and the harness also. The team was named Lamb and Gerry. The station keeper at Whitehall was A.H. Blakeslee.

To cloth himself for the season Dan purchased a coat for \$3.00, 1 pair of "overalls", 1 shirt for \$1.50, and repaired his boots. His record book had columns for dates, the station keeper, the name of each station, and the date of departure. The rules he had to follow were:

1. Do not leave a station unless your book is endorsed by the station keeper.
2. Tow as fast as your team will bear without injury.
3. Keep awake night and day while towing or otherwise on duty, and take good care of your team.
4. Do not drink any spirituous liquor. Drunkedness is strictly prohibited.
5. When overtaking a boat towed by this line, change whippletrees and pass, but never change for the purpose of towing back.
6. Wear no standing martingales and no more than one guide - strap, except upon blind horses.
7. Whenever it is apparent the team is to be over nine hours on the route, feed eight quarts oats when six hours out. During breaks or crowds of long continuance, feed eight quarts every eight hours.
8. Drivers quitting on the route will be charged at least one dollar.

Upon faithful performance and observance of the above rules, drivers will be paid wages as follows:

Those driving steadily during the season, \$8 to \$14 a month. Those driving unsteadily or quitting their teams, except for severe illness and those who are discharged for neglect of duty, \$6 to \$8 a month, according to circumstances. N.B. Stations Keepers shall read the above rules to all drivers when they commence and be sure they are fully understood.

Dan's report book took him to 30 September. Some of the Station Keepers were T. Talmadge, Am Whiting, P. Mock, George Breen, G. Cole. Many of the Stations were men's names but there were others like Ocean Ware, Crusade, Valcore, Northern Light, Constitution. But the Station name did not match with the Station Keeper. Probably the route and work was like that of the truck drivers of today and like them the work "got into their blood".

The Whitehall Independent
September 11, 1985

Memories of Canal Life
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The second near tragedy in Cora's and Viola's lives occurred below the lock at Montreal. Father owned a smaller canal boat tied to a cargo boat filled with sand on which the family lived. The cargo boat was old and Father, worried, tested the level often with a box filled with sawdust on a long pole. One afternoon Father and Brother Frank went for groceries. A swell from a large boat evidently broke the gate of the lock. Mother first carried a sick daughter up the stairs and along a long passage way to the other boat. Then she carried a prize possession, her Singer sewing machine, along the same way.

The second boat was being pulled over and Mother appealed to nearby boatmen for help but they didn't stir. Fortunately Father appeared, dropped the groceries, and untied the boats, the cargo one sinking immediately. The next day divers came to verify the cargo. The girls remember a team of horses arriving with a big wagon. They were backed up and were pulled into the water but were saved.

Father was a small man but careful and intense. In New York Harbor one day he was very nervous watching a small boy running around on a nearby boat. Sure enough, the lad fell overboard. Amid the screams of the by-standers, Father grabbed a rope, tied it around himself, and tossed the other end to a nearby man with the command, "Hold this." He then dived into the water and saved the boy under the boat.

The Whitehall Independent
September 18, 1985

Memories of Canal Life
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A formal school year was not possible for children on the canal boats. The season began in May and they left the village school room not to enter it again until October or November. They did not catch up with their school subjects. But an education was secured in other ways. They saw the Great Lakes and Little Falls, and occasionally ran the rapids at LaChine. In New York City they were excited with the bright lights and

advertising signs. Their favorite was the beer mug sign with the foam that ran up with the foam on top. They were avid readers any book they could lay a hand on the girls even ferreted Brother's Jesse James books that he hid.

Their treat at St. John's was colored popcorn in bags. They did not want for anything. Once in World War I Mother decided to stay home while the rest went to Rochester. Cora did the cooking. Father gave each of the girls ten dollars to spend. Cora remembered that she bought a corset that laced. When they returned home, they handed the rest of the money to Father who was greatly disappointed. They just didn't know how to spend money.

The cargoes the girls remembered were pulp and lumber from Canada to New York. They always had to stop at Rouses Point for inspection. There was copper from Rome. In World War I new boats were chartered by the Government. Raw sugar was carried from Edgewater, New Jersey to Canada in hundred pound bags. This was the time of sugar rationing, it was a common dodge for people to open up the bags to take a little sugar from each one and sew them up again. In this way there was sweetening for coffee and syrup for pancakes. Potatoes were taken on in bulk at Smith's Basin or Dunham's Basin. This load was always a worry for there was danger of their freezing. They had to be covered on cold nights. Iron ore was carried in open pockets from Port Henry to the coal chute at the Elbow, to Canada, and a little to Fort Edward. In slow times ice was carried but Mother soon told Father not to take it any more for even the bed clothes became damp and cold. It made for uncomfortable living. On the Erie Canal other products were carried. On any one trip they might cross Oneida Lake to Buffalo. There they might load grain for New York or unload flour. A cargo from Syracuse to Colgate could be soda ash.

When asked if the tale of all mule drivers being mainly derelicts often without arms or legs were true, the girls did not remember it that way. They did remember delousing stations along the way where all drivers could take their clothes to be boiled and they could bathe. They didn't drive at night. Mother was reluctant to take the drivers on board for lunch because of their "occupants". In this case a lunch was prepared, wrapped in newspaper, and tossed over to them on the tow path.

The Whitehall Independent September 25, 1985

Memories of Canal Life Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Cora Archambault and Viola Bigelow remembered the World War One soldiers that guarded the locks and that passes on the system were required. In the grain cargoes to New York City from the west were harmless big black bugs. Having heard in their childhood that some spiders got into children's ears, they childlike, didn't ask questions, but assumed those bugs might do likewise and they were afraid of them. They, not knowing the bugs were harmless, took turns at night sitting up and watching for them.

Usually boats on the canal tied up at night but on the lakes it was different. There Father and Brother took turns on the deck tending the tiller.

Other reminiscences brought out locations. When Grandfather came from Canada he arrived at Lake Station north of the first cut and by the coal chute where coal from the south was loaded on the boats going north. Above this station on the rocks was a large hotel. This is one of several references about this hotel, which evidently was used in lake boat times for tourists. Not even its name seems to be known.

North of the Elbow is Put's Rock which the girls often mentioned in their walks through the woods. They understood there had been a battle there and that Israel Putnam escaped from the Indians by sliding down the rock and swimming across the lake. This is one of the inaccuracies that creep into history accounts. There was a battle there in 1758 in which Putnam and his small force of soldiers killed half of French Marin's force down in the canoes and retreated toward Lake George with only one casualty.

When the new channel for the canal was dug and opened formally in 1919, the Elbow was bypassed. This made the water between it and the natural lake a back water which soon became a graveyard for canal boats that were brought there and allowed to disintegrate. This area became a great skating rink for the young folks. The girls remember one boat especially that was near the shore. They could skate all around the boats and had great fun skating in and out of the windows of this one.

On the east the canal passed the mouth of East Bay where the War of 1812 ships had been anchored and gradually sank. They remember that in the summer boys went there to swim and dive to see if they could find cannons. On the west the natural lake still leads to the Whitehall Harbor and Lock 12. There they remember the bridge that crossed Dutch Gap, a land of water that extended from the lake westward for a short distance.

In early days young folks had to use their own ingenuity for amusement. Walking was a favorite and led them a field as far as the Pike Brook area.

Dolls were not as plentiful for girls then and they made their own. One such they described as a piece of wood with nails for the arms and legs. They unbraided pieces of rope for the hair and then made clothes for them.

The Whitehall Independent October 2, 1985

Archambault Lineage Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

An 1870 picture of the Archambault house is of a house built in 1730 by third generation Jacques Archambault, husband of Francoise Aubuchon. It was located in Longue-Pointe, east of the island of Montreal. Six generations of the Archambaults lived here. It was demolished in 1977, six years before the Archambault Association was formed.

Genealogy has become a nationwide hobby. An important clue to the success of ancestor research is the collecting of data from parents, grandparents, and other relatives. It is a surprising fact that many researchers do not even know the maiden name of their mothers, a result of waiting till middle age when the resource material has gone.

The first wave of immigration to Whitehall came mainly from the New England states, people whose roots in turn came from Europe. The second wave brought immigrants directly from those countries.

One of the first results of an ancestor search is the framework of the family tree that contains lists of names. The second step is to fill in details. Cora Archambault and Viola Bigelow's family line began in Whitehall with Grandfather James but the name goes back to Marquis De Jacques Archambault who came to Canada from southwestern France in 1644. He married Francoise Toureau. One of their six children, born in France, was Laurent who married Catherine Marchand. These two passed on the direct heritage to one of their twelve children, Jacques and wife Francoise Aubuchon.

Jacques and Francoise also had twelve children of whom Louis and wife Therese Boudreau-Gavalene carried the lineage to one of their seven children and his wife, Antoine and Josephta Thouin. These two in turn had eleven children, one of whom was Jean Baptiste who married Amable Chartier. One of the seven children of this couple was Louis who married Flavie Jette and had seven children. One was Onesine (Jim) which brings us to the family entry of Whitehall's Archambault. This tree has been made by the Archambault family who allowed it to be copied.

One fascinating and frustrating thing about genealogy is the change in names which can occur through a number of instances illegible handwriting, pronunciation misunderstanding, and purposeful change. This is seen in both first names and surnames.

The Whitehall Independent October 9, 1985

Memories of Canal Life Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Archambault family is one of the many families that made canal history in Whitehall at the time of its heyday. Cora and Viola's Grandfather Onsimé (Jim) who was born in Canada in 1852 came to Whitehall when he was fourteen years, probably drawn by brothers who preceded him. Arriving in Whitehall and not speaking English, he mistakenly took the train at Lake Station and went to Fort Edward but returned immediately.

James obtained work in a blacksmith shop at the point of the Elbow, picking up chips for the boilers. Then he secured work in the boatyard of George Neddo which occupied the land at the Elbow with the boats being launched to the north into the lake. He learned the trade and became a boatman himself. An interesting episode occurred at this time. George Neddo took him back to Canada to see his parents. There George became acquainted with James' sister and she became his second wife.

James (also Jacques) and Lydia Shatley (Libby/Elodie) were married 25 October 1874 and had seven children - James, Frank, Henry, David, Rose, Cora, and Agnes.

Son Frank was next in direct lineage. He became associated with the canal business in the transportation line. He loved boating and during his working years owned six boats - The C. Basset, Michael F. Joy, Aubrey Meyers, Henry Neddo, D.S. Slinsby,

L.A. Prouty - all named for people with whom he was associated. He married Isabelle St. John and began married life on the canal about 1896. Isabelle was not as fond of canal life as Frank was but made a good life for their five children: Alice (who married a boatman), Frank (who became a boat captain), Stella (who was proud to say she was born on a canal boat), Cora (who liked to travel), and Viola (who met her husband in boating).

Frank and Isabelle and family lived in the Elbow community in the present Davis house. They, in retirement years, gave a radio interview at Liberty Eatery when the Royal Recorders produced a program there, she dressing in older style clothing with a sunbonnet. In retirement Frank built a houseboat out of all sorts of lumber. Alex Sidur rented it and they went fishing, drawn by a motor boat. In the flood of 1977 Mr. Sidur took it into the lake. Fairly recently the boat was examined for possible preservation but the years had taken their toll.

Cora and Viola returned to Whitehall to care for their parents. On her father's coaching, Cora bought the land that comprises the Elbow. At first she planned only a cabin but plans changed and she now has a cozy home directly at the point with water on both sides. Viola's husband erected a home-just across the point and here the two Archambaults live at the place of their life's early memories, in close touch with the younger generation who will carry on the line.

This Sunday Cora and Viola enjoyed the canal trip south on the DUTCH APPLE as guests of Captain Lynn Bottum who was fascinated with their reminiscences. Now they can contrast the present canal with the one they knew and recall fondly.

The Whitehall Independent 1985

Memories of Canal Life Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The "bum" boat was anxiously looked for on the Hudson River. It was a tug with no cabin which announced its arrival with a special whistle. It brought fresh vegetables and fruit, and most special - ice cream. There were no paper bags to carry the produce, just aprons of the women.

Water for use on the boats was kept in barrels. If the supply had to be taken from the lake when in tow, word was passed along the line not to empty anything in the lake for a distance.

Seamier sides of life were noted. On a lumber boat one could play around the piles of lumber. Once when a man appeared they ran to tell Mother and a neighbor woman came out with a long butcher knife and chased him in and out of the piles. In Harbor in New York one time they were tied up to a liner waiting for cargo. The Italian captain asked Father to keep his girls out of sight of the seaman. They weren't used to seeing women. Nearby was a boat manned by a woman and her husband. The seaman were not used to taking orders from a woman but were subdued when she chastised them verbally.

Once when they were in Canada an excursion boat sank (name not remembered). The girls peeked out to see the bodies taken from the water.

Canal traffic was still heavy in the early 1930's, fifty years ago, The COOK, the girls remember, left Whitehall with a tow of 26 boats for Port Henry and St. John's. Nine of the boats were loaded at the Elbow. A well known picture of such a tow on Lake Champlain hangs in the Village office. Boats were coupled side by side.

The Whitehall Times **January 20, 1983**

Early Canaling Days **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Accounts of early canal days are hard to come by. This information came from a scrapbook, the items unfortunately not all dated but the context can give some hints of location. This was from the Troy Times and from a city that rivaled Whitehall in canal life.

"Whitehall has expanded since packet days when the opposition boat started out with nine horses and ploughed the canal so deep that the trough was the bottom. The Anglo Saxon (previous name of the Hall Hotel that burned in 1876), the Phoenix (the first one was destroyed about 1852) and the Armenian (the first time I've heard of this one that might not have been in Whitehall) no longer dispensed hospitality to travelers. They too are gone with the packets."

The article continues with this information: The hum of industry was heard up the valley. At Comstock's a car load a day of lime was shipped, and at Smith's Basin a large business was done. (The lime kilns at Hatch Hill were producing also). Woolen mills in Fort Ann had orders for six months ahead at Kane's Falls and were running night and day making cloth. At Comstock's there was a notable farm where horse breeding was carried on successfully.

Another article told about Comstock or Comstock's Landing as it was called, as Whitehall was long called Whitehall Landing. Comstock was at one time a great shipping point on the Champlain Canal. Farmers from the back country and from Vermont brought their produce for shipment to market. Loads of marble from the quarries of Vermont came here overland by teams. It was not uncommon in the fall of the year to see 300 teams per day, taking their turn in line, to discharge their loads at the docks and warehouses. The Great Meadow Farm was the headquarters of the packet and stage coach horses used on the lines between Whitehall and Troy. It was provided with extensive buildings for their protection, built when lumber was plentiful and balloon frames unheard of; while the 'great meadow,' a single field of 350 acres with others of less extent supplied an abundance of the sweetest and most fragrant hay.

Comstock Landing was originally the homestead, and center of the day of the veteran Peter Comstock, the pioneer and hero in finance, commerce and transportation of persons and proprietary intermediate of the Hudson River at Albany and Troy and the Canadas (as early Canada was called) by stage, packets, canal boats and steamers. His fame accredited him with knowing no impossibilities. Comstock provided him with one community that stretched in lumber interests to communities north to Port Kent and

provided him with means of support. His were the Red Bird line of packets and the Red Bird line of stage coaches. He built steamers and was called the industrialist of the North Country. An account of his exploits appeared earlier in "Day Before Yesterday and Now."

Since Comstock was an early neighbor of Whitehall on the canal, the next article will be on that topic. The Great Meadow of early times is hard to discover in early accounts such as in this source.

The Whitehall Times March 26, 1981

The Champlain Ship Canal Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Not too many years ago a rumor was circulating that the canal was to be enlarged to become a ship canal and ocean liners would be sailing through Whitehall between the Great Lakes and New York City. It was assumed that the center of the village would be wiped out and only the houses on the mountain sides would be left. This rumor had been preceded by actual investigation back in the 1800's.

There seemed to be a need to keep commerce in the Port of New York City rather than diverting it to other ports. This need would be satisfied if the Champlain Ship Canal could be built and a boat loaded with 1,000 tons of cereal at the west could be floated to New York City without breaking bulk.

In 1867 the state engineer and surveyor reported that Samuel McElroy had investigated this route. This report held some interesting data. From Troy to Fort Edward, a distance of 40 miles, there was an elevation of 116 feet to be overcome: from Fort Edward to the summit, a distance of two miles, an elevation of 31 feet; and from the summit to lake Champlain at Whitehall, 21 3/10 miles, a descent of 50 feet. Seven miles of the descent was in Wood creek to Lake Champlain which flows into the St. Lawrence. Thus the highest point between tide water and the St. Lawrence was 147 feet. The length of improvement would be only 63 3/10 miles.

The elevation could be overcome by eleven locks and dams, two locks at Fort Edward to the Summit, and then a descent through a valley as a connecting link between the east and the west to Lake Champlain. The importance of this natural route was seen by General Burgoyne during the Revolution as well as by Carroll in 1776 when he suggested a canal in the same path.

The report also stated there would be an abundant supply of water for the proposed canal. The Hudson River could supply more than would be required. The many lakes at the source of the Hudson could be dammed for retention or the summer droughts and Lake George, a body 36 miles long, could be adequate for the supply. The lake, eleven miles from Fort Edward, is 60 feet higher than the Summit.

Mr. McElroy's estimate for the cost of the whole project from Troy to Lake Champlain with stone dams, feeders and all necessary structures, giving canal capacity for vessels of 50 tons, was \$4,533,379. This would provide a waterway in the river of 100

feet in width at bottom and eight feet in depth. The improvement in the river would be the raising of dams and building locks 300 feet by 45 instead of 225 feet by 25.

From Fort Edward to within seven miles of Lake Champlain (17 miles) the entire canal would have to be built upon a larger scale, with more excavation and larger structures. The last seven miles is nearly the required size and depth and would require some strengthening and some bridges.

In 1873 the Hon. Smith M. Weed introduced an assembly bill to provide the construction of the Champlain Ship Canal. Canada was anxious to cooperate in the project. In 1881 the project again raised its head and newspaper men were espousing the cause — a Champlain Ship Canal capable of floating vessels from the St. Lawrence and New York City.

The Whitehall Times

May 21, 1981

May 1881

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

H Coates applied for a patent for a new propelling motor called a leveling propelling motor to be applied to canal boats. He believes he has discovered the long sought for motor to propel boats.

The Whitehall Times

April 17, 1980

Canal Affairs in April 1880

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

An effort was being made to have the canal opened by 15 April, if not sooner, forwarders being anxious to move the large amount of freight, especially ice awaiting shipment.

The canal was opened 27 April with the first boat through being **James M. Wood** loaded with ice. The collector's office was presided over by James Doren, collector; Ed Pratt, first clerk, George Doren, second clerk; Frank Belleville, boat inspector. The boatmen expected a prosperous season. The harbor was full of loaded boats ready to clear, some thing that had not happened here in several years.

The canal appointments had been made by Superintendent Harris. Oliver Thomas was captain of the state boat and Frank Johnson in charge of the towing. The crew was composed of Charles Nichols, Samuel Wentworth, David Rodd, James Sullivan, John Connors and Martin Blute

The lock tenders at the lower lock were Daniel Pratt Charles Judd, Michael Robinson and Colis Godin. At the wooden locks was Jesse Richardson, and at the Parish locks, Henry Seeley and Henry Betts.

At Fort Ann the lock tenders were Lewis T. Wineger, Rufus Moore. William Crosby, Joshua Dyer, Lyman Minton and John Cunningham. Bank watchmen were L.C. Holmes and Jay D. Smead of Comstock.

Whitehall has a history of boatbuilding — lake, canal, row and motor. The builders were active in April, 1880. J. and H. Adams were finishing a large class grain boat, sold to New York parties. Another has been started, to be finished during the summer.

Three canal boats built by Mahan and Reed were launched and ready for use. The names were **B.S.V Clark**, of Malone, John W. Eddy and John Reed of Whitehall. The builder claimed these boats would out carry any large canal boats ever built here. He planned to put crews on the three boats to run them this summer.

M.T. Jillson launched a large size canal boat the week of 7 April. James Williamson finished two first class boats for Swift, Courtney and Beecher Match Company of which firm W.B. Allen was agent. These boats were called **M. Marty Allen** and **Win. H. Ketchum**.

Bise Putnam launched three boats belonging to James Quinn, John O'Neil and H.G. Burleigh. George Neddo was building a boat at the Elbow for Murray Manville.

Some other events occurred in Whitehall in April. The Grand Union (site of Chase's store) closed its doors under Frank Fish but opened a few days later, freshly painted, under management of Moore and Wilcox.

A new firm of a sash and door factory, Hayes and Falardo, was producing 100 new doors every day.

The 28 April issue of The Whitehall Times was of a new size, nine columns wide instead of eight. This increase was due to its large increase in columns of advertisements.

The Whitehall Times July 31, 1880

Whitehall Republican May 17, 1828 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Samuel Young, Henry Seymour and W.C. Pouch were canal commissioners. A toll sheet was published "on boats used chiefly for the transportation of passengers east of Utica, 20 cents per mile, or six cents per mile on the boat and two cents per mile for each passenger over eight years of age, provided they render such satisfactory accounts of the number of passengers as may be required and make such election when commencing business for the season. Lumber paid a cent per ton per mile so that a boat carrying a hundred tons paid just a dollar a mile."

The Whitehall Times
August 5, 1982

Whitehall in the 1830's
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The account of the village continued with some interesting facts of the canal importance to the town and village. All the transportation from the south was by means of canal boats, not only for us but for the neighboring towns. To the latter the freight was hauled by wagons. Calculations for winter consumption were made before the closing of navigation, for after that the only way of getting any supplies was by wheeling from Troy.

There are those now (1802) who can call to mind a memorable time when the flour supply failed, the meal was all used and even rye flour could not be had for love or money. Just at this time, a steamer, the first of the season, came through the lake and brought to Whitehall a drove of horses with the men in charge. They expected to get food here but were unable to procure a single loaf of bread or even a cracker. In a day or two relief came. Some enterprising teamster brought a few loads from Troy and not long after the canal opened.

The roads were very poor in those days and the teamsters had discouraging times, particularly after the spring and fall rains came on:

Oftentimes the wheels would sink into the clay to the very hubs, and a force of men would be required to help them out and on. During the season of fruits, twice each week boats would come from the south laden with fruit to supply the wants of our town's people. They stopped in front of the Hall House — then the Whitehall House to which the people would hasten to secure their supplies of peaches, pears, melons, apples, or whatever the season afforded.

When the packets — the passenger boats on the canal — came in sight, a bell that hung above what is now our foot bridge was rung to announce the arrival that the hotel keeper might have carriages and baggage wagons in attendance. The same bell is today sending forth its notes but now it calls together the children who gather at the Bell School House over the hill. (Rev. Kellogg in his Historical Sketch of Whitehall claimed that that bell of the school house came from the first academy on Division Street when that building was destroyed).

The Whitehall Times
April 21, 1988

Whitehall Chronicle in the 1850's
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In the 21 September 1853 issue, was the New York State bid for the completion of the three combined locks at Whitehall and the construction of a street bridge and a pier into the harbor to be completed by April 1857. This was to complete the abandoned

construction work of some time ago. This was a part of the enlargement and repair of the canal from the foot of the guard lock, Southside of the Mohawk River to the first lock north of Fort Miller; from the first lock north of the Saratoga dam to Dunham's Basin and the Glen's Falls Feeder (old spelling) and the pond above, five miles; and from Dunham's Basin to Whitehall, twenty two miles, seven of which were in Wood Creek with towing path on the bank.

The Whitehall Times
May 5, 1988

Whitehall Chronicle in the 1850's
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Canal and Lumber: On 22 January 1856 John Norton was appointed one of three collectors of tolls on the Champlain Canal. On 5 May water was let into the canal at Whitehall and boats were "locked up" from the lake in large numbers. The trip south was started on Monday but when Fort Ann was reached they were held up until Thursday as the contractor had not correctly attended to the repairing of the canal in his section. The lock at Whitehall had been fully finished.

On 11 June a tug steamer with thirteen barges of M.K. Dickinson from Montreal assigned to Tracy Cowen arrived from Ottawa with one million three hundred thousand feet of pine lumber. It had paid the largest toll of any brought through the Champlain Canal. The next tow would have fifteen barges which would increase the amount of the above quantity. No wonder Whitehall was called "A Lumberyard." Whitehall was to be a great depot for the sale of lumber at this time.

There were two establishments for dressing and preparing lumber for sale. Davis and Cook were in full operation and their yards were well stocked. Cowen also had an extensive supply. During this period in history Whitehall was a natural depository of all northern lumber and it was at this time that the forests along the lake and around Whitehall were stripped of their growth.

The Whitehall Times
August 24, 1972

Washington County News 1872
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Canal news was worthy of note. Accidents were reported as; a man jumping from a tow broke an arm. Saunders Street Bridge over the canal was re-planked and the village fathers voted for a new iron bridge over the water where the lower bridge stood, with a tax to be raised for the purpose. Water in Wood Creek was high because of excessive rain and many boats were lying at anchor.

The Whitehall Times
May 3, 1973

May 1873?
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A strike occurred on this section of the canal enlargement. The men who had accepted \$1.50 a day for what time they had worked (had weather and delays had decreased the number of working days) asked for 25 cents more. Other sections were paying this. Upon the refusal of this increase they “proceeded to gather up their tools and quietly retired from the works.”

The Whitehall Times
May 31, 1973

May 1873
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

May, 1873 from The Whitehall Times:

On 15 May 1873, the canal was opened. There followed a rundown, of openings over the years:

1846 May	16	1860 April	25
1847 May	1	1861 May	1
1848 May	1	1862 May	1
1849 May	1	1863 May	10
1850 April	25	1864 April	30
1851 April	15	1865 May	1
1852 April	20	1866 May	1
1853 May	20	1867 May	4
1854 April	1	1868 April	23
1855 April	1	1869 May	8
1856 April	5	1870 May	10
1857 April	6	1871 April	24
1858 April	28	1872 May	13
1859 April	15	1873 May	15

A 40 year ago item: 14, May, 1833, 15 Inches of snow fell, according to Ferdinand Warren.

Since the canal will open 15 May long processions of equine and asinine steeds, strung on ropes like dried apples are seen dragging themselves along toward the canal stables and in a few days the old familiar sounds of “Let ‘er haul” will greet our ears.

Canal .boat rules for 1873: 4 feet 2 Inches draft of water for long boats; 4 feet 6 inches for small boats going south; 3 feet 10 inches for large boats and 4 feet 3 inches for small ones going south.

Captain James H. Manville brought the first two through 13 May with 33 boats with the propeller Brilliant.

The first stern wheeler, unnamed, ran on the lake from Ticonderoga to Whitehall. The frame of the over-shop water-wheel stood above the water eight feet and as worked by the engine.

The Whitehall Times **June 28, 1973**

June 1873 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

On the canal many boats laden with molasses and sugar are on their way north. Rafts of lumber are on their way south.

For the week ending 24 June, 28 boats carrying 1895 tons, nearly all coal, were cleared at this port. Many other boats passed here that will be cleared at ports farther north. Going south 235 boats have been cleared for the week, coming from Canada.

The largest tow of the season, Whitehall Transportation GLEN IRIS, Captain J.G. Rockwell, arrived last Thursday, 19 June, with a tow of 35 boats, 33 loaded with iron ore from Port Henry, 4000 tons estimated.

Custom House authorities were directed by Collector Parmenter to order the unloading of canal boats CARRIE and M.J. MYERS lumber for New York. An old law directs that all boats coming from foreign ports must be unloaded at the first port of entry unless accompanied by an inspector.

The Whitehall Times **May 16, 1974**

Canal News May and June 1874 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Anniversary Bells: Mr. and Mrs. James LeClaire. May 19.

Canal News **May and June, 1874**

Whitehallers listen each year for the signal of the first boat to ask for the lock. A hundred years ago canal affairs and canal boats occupied much space in the newspapers.

In May, 1874 the canal opened officially on 5 May with 28 boats locking through. Prospects looked dark for the first days as a break reported (falsely) at Schuylerville or Fort Edward would delay shipping but the actual count was better than the year before. Collector's records showed over a period of years:

Date	Boats	Tolls
May12, 1869	34	\$703.15
May 10, 1870	24	490.95
Aprill7, 1871	5	113.70
May 13, 1872	39	730.76
May19, 1873	9	193.09
May 5, 1874	28	399.08

The first cargo of 1874 came in a day before the formal opening, a load of grain from Canada for J. H. Sullivan & Co. The week before the opening was one of launching canal boats. From the Reed and Murray yard Capt. Frank Ryan launched the **St. T. Manville**, custom house register 102 tons and Capt. James Nolan launched **Kate M. Noyes**, register 118 tons. Both of these went to Ottawa and returned two weeks later with the largest loads of lumber ever. **S. T. Manville**, with 150,000 feet and **Kate M. Noyes**, 165,000 feet to Brett & Bascom.

J. & H. Adams launched two large class boats of 250 tons each — **M. Dill** to be run by Capt. J. Reily and **J. J. Manville**, by Capt. John O'Neil. William Harris launched a large class boat, **W. F. Torrance**, owned and commanded by Capt. S. Mahan.

Fort Ann Dry Dock Co. sent out a particularly fine boat. **Colonel Price of New York**, Capt. W. H. Hagedorn owner. It measured 97 feet in length, 17 feet 8 inches in beam, and 8 feet sides. She went through Whitehall with a cargo of sand for Montreal.

Accidents happened along the canal. This month a blind horse on the tow path at the change bridge above Hall's Hotel stepped over a rope. The resulting entanglement threw the team 15 feet into Wood Creek. They were rescued.

Pessimism had been rife over the business conditions for the year. Editor Wilkins interviewed the heads of the various transportation lines. L. J. N. Stark, president of the Northern Transportation Line, said traffic going south was light but that going north was larger than usual. He believed that as the season advanced business would be better. The secretary and treasurer of the line, H. R. Snyder, endorsed this opinion, all of the line's lake steamers were running with a fair amount of business.

The Honorable Emerson E. Davis, president of Whitehall Transportation Company, said not much lumber was coming yet from Canada but that it would pick up. R. H. Cook, secretary and treasurer, said although the shipments of iron ore had fallen off 30 per cent, he thought the amount shipped would compare favorably with former years.

H. G. Burleigh, president of Burleigh Brothers, said if Congressmen would go home and let business take its course, confidence would be restored.

S. C. Bull of the Whitehall and Ticonderoga Co. reported their business had been excellent. But this line did only a local business between the two villages and was not affected by the general business.

The lake passenger steamers were carrying more freight north this year than last. The consensus was that the present season would be the average of any previous year.

The Whitehall Times
September 27, 1973

September 18, 1874
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Committee on Cheap Transportation met at the Whitehall Depot and went on board the Florence Wetherby Yankee which stayed at the depot only a few' minutes How could they ascertain the advantages of this route over all others? They should have stayed long enough to look over the harbor, the lay of the land, and the quality of the water necessary to build a ship canal.

The Whitehall Times
January 31, 1974

January 1874
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Honorable E. E. Davis in the assembly, newly elected, had introduced a bill to abolish the Board of Canal Appraisers and one providing for the enlargement of the Champlain Canal widening and deepening it so large boats could enter Lake Champlain at Whitehall with cargoes.

The Whitehall Times
December 26, 1974

Last Week in 1874
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Work is rapidly being pushed on the new canal wall by Barnett and Nash.
Laborers are being paid \$1 per day on the canal work being done in the village
Our teamsters are having employment drawing stone for the new canal wall
The canal is filled full of stone. Barnett and Nash have many teams drawing stone from "Around the Mountain" as well as from the hills near James Wheeler's.
Barnet and Nash are at work on the canal wall through the village. The foundation for the wall on the east side of the canal is being laid. The berm wall which was torn away some time since and work suspended thereon is to be rebuilt immediately.
The new wall will be built from four to six feet further towards the middle of the canal thus giving more width to Canal Street. The addition of four to six feet to a narrow main thoroughfare will be of great benefit to our village. Barnett and Nash will not, tear away the old towpath and wall until they have so far completed the new wall and embankment so as not to put canal navigation behind in the spring.

The Whitehall Times
May 22, 1975

May 100 Years Ago
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

1 May the first tow of the season left here for down the lake. Northern Transportation steamer **Brilliant** with Capt. M. M. Manville left with 27 boats while 4 May Whitehall Transportation **H. G. Tilsdale** with Capt A. Murray left with 17 boats for St. John.

The opening of Lake Champlain was the latest in 160 years. 10 May steamer **Adirondack** commenced regular trips. This year the trains of the D&H Canal Company commenced connection with Lake Champlain steamers at Fort Ticonderoga.

The canal opened 18 May with 25 boats clearing, the first, one **Angeline Alloro**, with Capt. J. B. Allore.

Anna Gilligan with Capt. Joe LaFrance arrived 25 May from Canada with 15,000 bushels of oats, the largest cargo of oats ever shipped on Lake Champlain.

The Whitehall Times
May 27, 1976

May 1876
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The canal board, 28 April, passed resolutions requesting the state engineers to prepare plans and estimates for deepening, bottoming out and straightening the Champlain Canal.

The Whitehall Times
July 22, 1976

The Canal in July 1876
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Recently I received a letter from the Canal Society of New Jersey with the information that the last intact example of wood hull canal boats in this country has sunk at her moorings at Bridgeport, Conn.

According to the description sent with the photo, the **Priscilla Dalley** was built in Whitehall in 1929 — 311 tons, 111 feet long, 24 foot beam and 11.8 foot depth of hold. This agrees generally with the description in the Whitehall paper of that time—112 feet long, 24 feet wide, 12 feet high, at a cost of \$15,000. There was no name given at its launching.

The canal boat was built in the Ryan boatyard, about where the playground is now. It was the last boat to leave the yard, being launched sideways. It was a gala day in Whitehall. As I remember it, the area on the west side of the canal was filled with spectators. I can't remember whether school was let out for the occasion but school children and teachers were there in abundance to see the "big splash."

The Canal society of New Jersey thinks the vessel should be raised and placed on the National Historic Register. Further plans will be forthcoming if interest can be aroused.

The story of this launching would be an interesting one to record. There must be people who remember the launching in some detail — even its construction — who would be willing to place it on tape.

The Canal in July, 1876

"The Champlain canal was never in better order than now. This speaks well for Canal Commissioner Thaver and his three able assistants, Ingalls, Shannon and Dougrey."

T. A. Paterson clerk of the canal collector's office reported these figures: Number of clearances. 583; 75 boat loads of ice going south; going north, 27,500 tons of coal, 2800 tons of iron, 22,000 tons of ore, 20,042,750 feet of lumbers, 39,749 cubic feet of timber. The receipts at the office were \$8,241.74.

N. T. Jillson had just commenced the construction of two large sized canal boats.

The Canadian government stopped American tugs from going into the rivers of Canada, except the canal boats when stoppage would interfere with the Canadian lumber trade.

Bathers were very thick in the canal and lock near The Times office.

The Whitehall Times September 23, 1976

September 1876 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A Whitehall canal boat took 39 hours to go to Waterford, the fastest time on record at that time.

The Whitehall Times
August 10, 1978

Canal 1878
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Canal Superintendent John Whalen was improving the harbor with the state dredge. The sand was taken by canal boats and placed on the tow path. This operation gave employment to 20 extra men,

Games for the Burleigh Corps on their field day at Gourley's Grove in Putnam were a tub race, a wheelbarrow race and a potato race. A dress parade was followed with dancing and songs.

The Whitehall Times
November 6, 1980

November 1880
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Canal opening and closing times were listed for 11 years:

1870	May 10	Dec. 8
1871	April 24	Dec. 1
1872	May 13	Dec. 1
1873	May 15	Dec. 5
1874	May 5	Dec. 5
1875	May 18	Nov 20
1876	May 4	Dec. 1
1877	May 8	Dec. 7
1878	April 15	Dec. 7
1879	May 8	Dec. 6
1879	April 20	Dec. 2

The Whitehall Times
May 21, 1981

News in May 1881 in Whitehall
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

New York and Lake Transportation Company mules are being whitewashed and chaulked over new for the season of 1881.

The Whitehall Times
April 8, 1982

Whitehall in 1882
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In favor of canal enlargement: Vessels arrive at Whitehall from Canada with burdens of 250 tons. This is 70 tons greater than can be shipped by the Erie Canal and the Champlain Canal will require only 66 miles of enlargement against the Erie's 300. The supply of water for this northern route is always adequate for any emergency. What would be better than this would be a system of dams of the Hudson River from Waterford to Fort Edward.

The Whitehall Times
June 24, 1982

The R. H. Cook 1882
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A while ago Henry Lamore made a model of the **R. H. Cook** and the picture of the real vessel was printed in The Whitehall Times. Recently the description of the boat was found in an 1882 paper and is related here as it gives the origin of the tug:

Chandler Baldwin, master mechanic of the New York and Lake Champlain Transportation Company inspected the new tug in Buffalo and pronounced her a beauty. He superintended the finishing of the steam tug there before its journey to Whitehall in July. She arrived here 28 July with Honorable Smith M. West of Plattsburgh, Judge Potter, Honorable H. G. Burleigh, N.T. Jillson, S. Mahon and Chandler J. Baldwin on board. The tug was, piloted from Buffalo via Welland Canal and Lake Ontario by Captain, W. D. Wait of the Anchor line propeller **Annie Young**, as far as Ogdensburg.

The Buffalo Courier reported she was the largest and finest iron tug ever built in Buffalo, indeed a better built or finished tug could not be found on all the lakes. Her length was 112 feet beam 20 feet, hold 9 ½ feet. Her custom house measurement was 157.62 tons. She had three-quarter compartments, with a water ballast tank forward for, tipping her as desired.

Her engine was a fore-and-aft compound, with cylinders of 22 and 24 inches and 26 in stroke. The main boiler was 8¼ by 14¼ feet, and there was a small upright boiler for running a Worthington pump. Both boilers and engine were of Mr. Bell's make and were first class in every respect. The large boiler was covered with asbestos by E.G. Marvin, the work being done by John Neil of Brooklyn, New York, in a manner which no one but himself attempts.

The Cook's deck house was a very large and roomy one and the pilot house was above it. The dining room was forward up on the main deck and the kitchen just off it. Next came the stairway to the pilot house and the boiler room. The engine room was

large and conveniently arranged. Back of this there was a cozy room having two double berth sleeping rooms, water closets connected with it. This room was very handsomely furnished.

The forecandle, under deck forward, was unusually large and airy, and contained eight bunks comfortably arranged. The crew made their home on the boat the entire season, and hence generous provision for their welfare shows a kind of thoughtful regard on the part of the owners. The Cook was handsomely painted and her general appearance was particularly prepossessing.

The Cook's crew consisted of Captain A. Murray; Samuel Lawson, first engineer; Peter Man, second engineer; Thomas Dufrane, fireman; and a competent cook and several, deck hands. The tug was owned by the New York and Lake Champlain Transportation Company and was used for towing barges on Lake Champlain from St. John to Whitehall. She was generally admired.

The Rouses Point Star spoke of her in September thus: The R. H. Cook left Tuesday with a large timber raft in her wake. One gains an idea of the strength of the Cook by watching the way she lifts her hawser. The other boats use 500 feet of 5¼ inch hawser and are unable to lift it from the water. The Cook uses 600 feet of 6 inch hawser and carries it clear of the water by six inches or more. She was quite a tug.

The Whitehall Times

March 3, 1983

A Letter from a Little Girl of 1883

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

When I read a letter from a little girl of 1883 to the Editor of the Whitehall Times, I was reminded of our pamphlet "My Canaling Days."

Some years ago the late Mrs. Martha Juckett used to regale the visitors at her bedside with stories of her life on a canal boat. She finally consented to their urgings to write some of these experiences. Scorning a new pad of paper as extravagance, she tore open the envelopes of her get well cards and produced a manuscript that the Historical Society of Whitehall later printed. It contains reminiscences of life on the canal in winter and summer as well as a list of Whitehall's earlier canal families.

While this letter is not too full of details, it reminds us of the life that many of our earlier citizens enjoyed and it was not too bad.

Philadelphia, January 1883 Mr. Editor:

I don't think you know me, but I know you, you are the man who makes the paper for folks to read about what they do in Whitehall. A friend of mine has been telling me of little folks, boys and girls, writing letters for the newspapers, so I thought I would just write one to you, and ask you please to print it in your paper, and perhaps some other little boy or girl may write some time, and you will print it for them, too, and then you will have a children's column for the little ones to write for. Wouldn't it be nice? But I will first tell you who I am, then you will know who it is that writes this letter.

I am a little girl ten years old. We live in Whitehall sometimes, when we are not on our boat. As you know a good many of the folks in Whitehall go to boats in the summer. My papa owns a boat and runs on Lake Champlain and on the Hudson River to New York and Philadelphia sometimes. Last fall my papa came to Philadelphia and we got froze in here and will have to say here until next spring, when the river will open, then we will go to New York. There is a number of boats here. I know some of the folks on them. They live in Whitehall too. It is very cold here; sometimes it snows or rains and I am lonesome when I can't go outdoors, but I have got a big dolly and a lot of nice dresses for it, a little carriage and a trunk to put my dolly's clothes in. I have got some china dishes and lots of other things, such as little girls have, you know which I would like to tell you about some time, if you will print this letter. I think you would like to hear about them as well as some other little folks in Whitehall I know. The other day I was reading a story about a little girl that went to a pic-nic, whose name was Polly Miller, and since then my friends call me Polly Miller.

The Whitehall Times
July 17, 1986

100 Years Ago in Whitehall 1886
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A canal report tells of the cargoes on the canal during the first part of the year: boards of scantling, shingles, timber, staves, wood, pig iron, bloom and bar iron, sugar, nails, spikes and horse shoes, iron and steel, stone, lime, clay, iron ore. Boats cleared numbered 636.

The Whitehall Times
July 24, 1986

100 Years Ago in Whitehall 1886
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Interest had arisen in deepening that Champlain Canal to six feet. It had been determined that ore could be carried for fifty cents a ton if there was such a depth, with a savings of \$100,000 a year. A committee was appointed to attend a meeting in Albany for discussion on the subject.

The Whitehall Independent
December 31, 1986

On the Canal 1886
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In December 1886 James A. Shanahan, Superintendent of Public Works, began drafting a bill for presentation to the Legislature to provide \$255,000 from the State to improve that State's canals.

Champlain Canal would benefit from \$40,000 for cleaning and digging out the bottom. The editorial comment described the waterway thus: It is about as crooked as a corkscrew. It was laid out by Mr. Truesdell who designedly made it as crooked as he knew how. His notion was that if the canal were made straight, the current would have been so strong that the upbound boats could have made scarcely any headway, and so the canal was made nearly the reverse of straight that at the sharp bends the sediment collected to such a depth that something must be done to remove it.

With \$150,000 and a part of the \$200,000 from the Erie fund, Oswego Canal would have three completed double locks and the Erie Canal, six. These single locks were being constructed into locks of length sufficient to admit two boats at a time without uncoupling.

The Whitehall Times
April 2, 1987

Whitehall in 1887
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Champlain Canal opened late, 7 May. Because of the flood this year, water in the lake was high. There was damage to the docks and the lumber piles. The mills were flooded. The first tow was brought in from Canada by the **Germania** with 26 boats - St. John's, 8; Rouses Point, 1; Burlington, 1; Port Henry, 13; Dresden, 3. Captains appointed this year were: George Sweeney for **Robert H. Cook**; Jones for **Tisdale**; Joy for **Brilliant**. The **Grand Isle** was held in reserve.

The Whitehall Times
April 16, 1987

Whitehall in 1887
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Periodically, it seems a ship canal that would connect Canada and New York City would be under discussion. Not too long ago the topic was brought up in street talk with the conclusion that such a dredging through Whitehall would wipe the center of the village out of existence.

One such deepening of the Erie and Champlain Canals was proposed in 1873 but was defeated by the Western interests for they wanted the canal to go through the lakes.

In 1887 the idea was brought up again. The route could be along the Champlain Valley as the Lachine and St. Lawrence could be depended on for water supply. The Erie route was too long, 300 miles, to be used. An argument used was that by treaty the United States could have only two small war vessels on the lakes and Canada could have its whole border covered. A convention was set up in Rochester to discuss the deepening of the canal to receive gunboats and war vessels of light draft to go through Lake Champlain and the Hudson River while the government had a surplus before it could be depleted. Honorable H.S. Burleigh was sent with five others from Whitehall. It was the only place on the Champlain Canal to send representatives. The result of the meeting was that an appropriation was made to deepen the Champlain Canal from four feet to seven feet so that boats drawing six feet could pass along the route.

Captain Rushton of the **Vermont** reported that the Champlain Transportation Company was having a companion boat made in Wilmington, Delaware, to be brought to Whitehall on canal boats and put together here. It was the **Chateaugay** which would have feathering paddles and be steel hulled.

The captain reminisced about summer travel on the lake in earlier times. He said the first such travel into the Adirondacks was by people from the South who favored Montreal. Such travel did not occur in 1861 and when it did return the people were from the North. He recalled that old timers remembered the first women to go into the Adirondacks on a pleasure trip. When the company entered a boat for the trip home they were dressed in rough flannels. After they changed, people crowded around to see the women who had been through the Adirondack wilderness.

The Whitehall Independent
January 22, 1986

September 4, 1900
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In 1900 events on the canal were still of prime importance. Then the H. G. Burleigh Transportation purchased twelve head of draught horses at Lake George and Ticonderoga

for use on the canal. The Government dredge raised first class sand from the harbor and distributed it on the tow path.

The Whitehall Chronicle
Friday, May 11, 1906

Enemies of the Barge Canal

Trying to Delay or Defeat Project

Enemies of the barge canal have hit upon a new plan to give the project a 'black eye' if possible. They have proposed to the canal commission that they petition the U. S. Government to make an appropriation for improving that portion of the Hudson River that is to be canalized. If this suggestion is acted upon delay and uncertainty will result, possibly leading to a suspension of work altogether, though many contracts have been let

It is hard to believe that any interest except the railroad companies should oppose the canal which will make transportation cheaper and be a benefit to all.

NOTE: The remainder of the article refers statements in a letter written by W. E. Cleary, Vice-president of the Lake Champlain Transportation Company, dated April 30, 1908. These statements are not shown in the article.

April 1907

It is unknown if this article is from the Times or Independent

W. and St. J.'s Boatmen Are Much Elated

Canal boat owners in this section, who three years ago, joined the Inland Seamen's Union organization, are elated over the magnificent results which have crowned their energetic efforts for the betterment of their interest.

At the opening of navigation last year they formed the Whitehall and St. John's Towing and Transportation Company, which started business with the steamer Unique purchased at a cost of \$14,000 with an additional expenditure of \$3,000 for bringing it to Lake Champlain by way of the Atlantic and the St. Lawrence River, paying the whole amount in cash. Three months later they bought the Triton for \$8,500, half of which is already paid for and this season they will probably increase their towing fleet by purchasing another powerful tug boat, the Volunteer, now in the Baltimore Harbor, which is offered them for 18,000. One of their representatives is now in the latter city and the important deal is expected within a few days.

The Morning Star (Glens Falls)
Thursday, April 20, 1908

Lake Boatmen Enjoined
Transportation Co. Gets Order Making I.S.U. Men Leave Docks

The trouble between the Lake Champlain Inland Seamen Union has been transferred to the courts. Tuesday the transportation company served injunctions on thee of the I. S. U. boatmen to leave their docks the order, which was from Supreme Court Justice Kellogg of Plattsburg gave them twenty days in which to file their answer. The boatmen served were John Yell, William Lyons and A. D. Guerin.

All the boatmen served obeyed the order, but it is stated by them that they will fight the case, and find out whether they have a right to lie at the docks or not. The line owns all the water fronts as far north as the elbow, and if the order is made permanent the boatmen will have no place to tie up in the harbor of Whitehall.

The Whitehall Times
Thursday, May 8, 1908

Matters Hot in the Vicinity of Carriers

Argument Between Representative Enthusiasts Ended in Scrap

Sailors have incorporated. Company with \$30,000 capital investigates the inland waters between New York and Canada, and the Lake Champlain Transportation Company. A corporation engaged in a towing of boats between Waterford and St. Johns, Canada. For a number of years the transportation company has had no opposition in the transporting of freight in this section. About four years ago the boatmen struck and while they were together in Whitehall they had a meeting to organize a boatmen's union. A committee was appointed to apply for a charter to the Seamen's Union, which is affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. A charter was granted and each year showed them to be getting stronger. When the time for making freight rates and making contracts came around this year, the union loomed up as a factor and the transportation company had a competitor in the field. The union and the line had conferences, but were unable to come to any terms as in former years. The outcome of it has resulted in what might be called a fight for supremacy on the water, as the union has entered the towing business.

The transportation company start's out with an advantage in the way of towing, as it has all the tugs necessary for the business on the lake and about seventy teams on the canal. Besides it will have one and perhaps two towing on the canal and claims to have two hundred canal boats chartered, which will be sufficient for the business at present.

The Whitehall and St. Johns Towing company has been organized, in which a number of boatmen have an interest and all are members of the Inland Seaman's Union. Over four hundred boats controlled by them have agreed to tow with this new line. The

union claims to have enough freight to keep all the boats going and if this is the case a very prosperous season is in store for all.

A tug has been purchased of the New York parties, called the Unique and is of 500 horse power and will leave New York Tuesday to go around by way of the coast and then the St. Lawrence River to St. Johns, Canada, when it is expected it will be ready to take the first tow through Lake Champlain.

The transportation company threw another bomb into the enemy's camp last week when it issued orders to all boats not in its employ not to make fast to any of its docks. The company owns all the dockage on both sides of the lake at Whitehall as far north as the elbow, and if this order is obeyed boats will be obliged to anchor out or pull down below the elbow. The last day of grace expired April 20 for some, but up to today some of the boat captains have ignored the order. The question whether the company has the right to carry out this order is disputed by some of the boatmen although the company owns the dock.

The towing war is, to be regretted by all concerned, for, there can only be one result whichever side wins and that is that freight that could and would go by water will be carried by the railroads, and once the railroads get this freight, the boatmen in order to get it back will have to take it at a low figure. So it can readily be seen that both sides will have to sacrifice profits and this is where the shoe will pinch. The result will be watched with a great deal of interest. At present both sides are firm and ready for the test.

Injunction Reportedly Vacated

The opposition towing line has been incorporated with the Secretary of State at Albany and is stated that the capital stock is all subscribed. The new company is ready for business.

Distribution of Capital

Whitehall and Champlain N.Y. boatmen will hold the bulk of the stock. While businessmen all along the route of transportation will hold the remainder. The capitalization is \$30,000 not \$50,000 as heretofore rumored.

The Officers

The concern is to do business under the name of Whitehall & St. John's Towing and Transportation Company and was incorporated Tuesday. The following are directors for the first year: Denis Noel, H. G. Noel; Whitehall, U. G. Flurry; Plattsburg, Leon Roberts; Champlain.

The Company's Tugs

One of the company's tugs, the Unique left Monday for Whitehall via St. John's and should arrive here in about ten days from that date.

The tug Cooley is now in Troy and of course can not come here until navigation opens on the canal.

Companies Come to Blows

The idea of the bitter feelings and animus existing between the Lake Champlain Transportation Company and the new concern in the field can be gleaned from the fact

that two of their representatives in discussing the situation Tuesday became rather heated in their use of language and finally scrapped it out to a finish with fist and feet.

Rumor About Injunction

An out of town paper says that the injunction a few days ago restraining the boatmen from tying up canal boats at the docks of the Lake Champlain Transportation Company was vacated by Justice H. T. Kellogg at Malone on application of Robert O. Bascom of Fort Edward. The Times however has many inquires by authoritative parties and has failed to obtain conformation of the report.

Plattsburg Press Yesterday

Thirty-four boats are awaiting the opening of the canal. Six are Inland Seaman's boats and twenty-eight are contract boats that are to work for the Lake Champlain Transportation Company. Sixty boats are waiting the canal opening at Waterford. Eight are union boats and fifty-two are loaded for the Lake Champlain Transportation Company. Some three hundred boats in New York can not get loaded on account of the coal strike.

The Whitehall Times October 17, 1985

Bits and Pieces 1921 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The report of canal traffic for 1921 came out at this time. The traffic in that year was down by one half. Lumber was down because of the lack of building in New York City; iron, because of the lack of business in various parts of the state. One oddity was three barges of fresh fish carried from Quebec to New York City. Traffic for 1922 was predicted to rise as sulphate rock and nitrate of soda would be carried on the canal when it arrived at Albany on its way from Florida to Oswego. A big increase in pulp wood would be carried on the canal rather than by rail from Canada in 1922. The boats carrying this product became known as the Paper Boats.

The Whitehall Times February 20, 1986

Bits and Pieces 1922 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Dwight B. LaDue was the engineer who built the Barge Canal Locks. He had been a resident of Whitehall for many years. The item claimed that the barge canal was more intricate in its work from an engineering point of view than the Panama Canal.

The Whitehall Times
March 20, 1986

Bits and Pieces 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A forth coming historical celebration was announced. On 8 October 1923 there would be a great festival of the opening, official, of the Champlain and Erie Canals, and the “meeting of the waters” in Albany when boats from each canal terminus in Whitehall and Buffalo would pour water from each part together.

This account has been gathered in pieces from other sources but it adds additional material. The **GLENER** was the first boat to pass through the Champlain waterway; that is officially. Since 1819 when the canal was completed as far as Fort Edward there had been trade on it to that place. The boat was built in St. Albans and owned by Julius Hoyt, N. W. Kingman, and John Taylor. It was captained by William Burton. Its cargo was wheat and potash.

The **GLENER** was accompanied to Troy by a procession of boats decked in flags and was met there by a large crowd and greeted with artillery. A public dinner was held at the Troy House with much jubilation during the evening. The **DE WITT CLINTON** arrived at the same time in Albany and the “mingling” took place the next day.

The Whitehall Independent
April 18, 1984

Garden City
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

“Mule Town” and “Garden City,” two epithets for Whitehall probably will raise memories for older citizens and some not so old. This historian had heard Whitehall called Garden City but had never learned the origin of the name until a collection of newspaper articles in a scrapbook made in 1931 came to light.

First the term “Mule Town”: It is well known that canal boats were propelled by mule power. When canal travel was at its height, hundreds of these animals were housed in the old Line Barn on Bellamy Street. Often they made up a three mule team to go along the tow path as they pulled one or two boats along. Herbert Case told of seeing them brought into the village in a long line of fourteen in the spring. In the fall they were taken back to the farms in the same manner for wintering. One wonders which of the Whitehall farms where they were boarded.

The “line driver” was the appellation given to the persons who handled the mules. It is odd that there are no pictures of these mules and their drivers in any of the known collections of Whitehall scenes. The drivers are often referred to as tough and rough people — armless or legless. It was a rugged job - out in all weather and a different bed each night.

The enlarged canal was about six feet deep and fifteen foot wide in comparison with the four feet depth of the first canal. Before the construction of the Champlain Barge Canal, the water route lay through the present parking lot, south of Saunders Street Bridge and west of Skenesborough Drive. All this was filled in and became an unsightly place in the center of the Village. In 1914, under the guidance of Mayor John O'Neil and the cooperation of the Civic League, this area was filled in and graded and Riverside Park created.

This new park was planted with dozens of shade trees, one account says one hundred. Its name was spelled out in marble pieces at the north end and furnished with the historic watering trough; now used as a flower bed. Some people are anxious to have its original use restored. The urns were added from a house along Broadway. The benches followed and the second band stand built at the east side by the stairway down to the canal level. It was followed by the third one on the cement slab that has been replaced now with the 1892 replica of one that stood on the east side of the creek. Later the memorial guns were added and the plaque with its list of Whitehall's service men.

This park with its many trees, beautiful flowers, and benches for the weary became a resting place. It became known as its fame spread and Whitehall was labeled "The Garden City of the North."

The Whitehall Independent
February 6, 1985

(Date Unknown)
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The construction Of the Barge Canal had begun by this time and workers were brought in from outside. One place that housed them was the hoarding house of Mrs. V. Fresheuve on the Jackson Farm on Wood Creek Road. It was described as well known to those in the Barge Canal Construction work.

The Whitehall Times
July 9, 1981

Emita II
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Last week **Emita II** moored by Skenesborough Museum on one of its trips through the Champlain Barge Canal. Two recent articles have been written of this packet trip, one from "Mid-Lakes Running Lights" was reprinted in a July, 1981, issue of The Whitehall Times; another is in the July -August, 1981, issue of Americana" by a passenger, Caria Davidson.

These canal trip accounts bring to mind the packet boat trips described by Charles Dickens, the English author, who traveled the same route, and Washington Travis, who owned the Whitehall Six-Day Line. The same description applied to Peter Comstock's Red Bird packet line; also out of Whitehall in the mid 1800's.

The early packet was a slim boat with a steel prow that could cut, speedily through the water — and anything else in its path. **Emita II** is a former ferry boat with board decks that contrast sharply with the narrow deck of the old packets with its piles of passenger's luggage that left only a small passageway. **Emita II** carries 50 passengers while the packets were crammed with people.

Emita II passes easily under any of the bridges that span the canal. Its passengers do not have to duck or lie flat on the deck with the shout of 'bridge' or 'low bridge.'

A meal of steak, mashed potatoes, clam chowder, coleslaw and pecan pie seems meager beside the meal offered to Charles Dickens of salmon, shad, liver, steak, potatoes, ham, chops, pickles and sausages served on small tables below deck

When night fell there were no luxurious Queensbury Hotel rooms to sleep in. On early packets below deck were long shelves on which were sheets and blankets. Here the passengers were stored like books in library men and women were separated by red curtains, carefully drawn and pinned together, but from behind which every sound was audible.

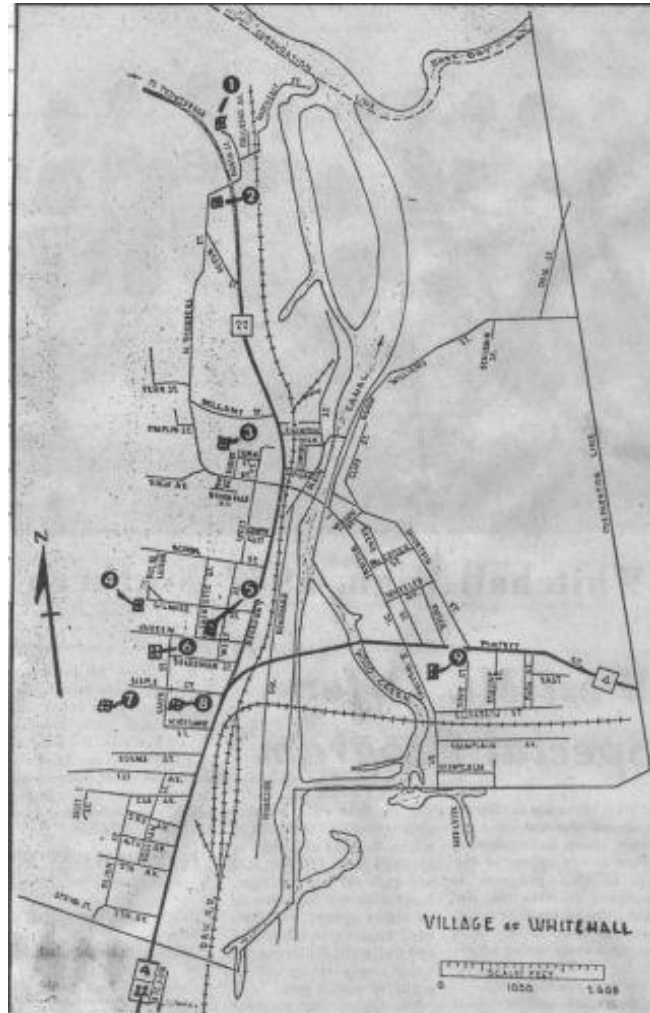
Packet boats, once started did not stop except for their time in the locks. The teams of horses drawing the boats ran at gallop on an 8 to 10 mile stretch. They were changed on the run with the fresh team galloping in as the tired ones ran to the outer edge of the tow path

Emita II has a crew of four, a captain and a lady in the kitchen. The old packets had a captain, a crew of six and a bouncer. The latter was a pugilist whose duty it was to keep order on the boat and prevent the sharpers and crooks from fleecing the passengers.

The packet boats of early times were built for speed in covering the route of the canal. They were the elite of transportation for passengers and carried many of the immigrants who entered the United States from Canada.

Past and present passengers of these boats traveled through a part of our state that is beautiful in waterways, forests and fields. It is well to take time to enjoy the blessings of nature and man's ingenuity in cities, bridges and transportation means.

Cemeteries



**The Whitehall Times
November 10, 1977**

Village of Whitehall Cemeteries Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

No. 1 is called the Rodd or Elbow Cemetery. Early Whitehall industries were settled in this area.

No. 2 is called the Neddo Cemetery. The Elbow school was near here, both on land owned by the Neddo family. This one has been read.

No. 3 is the Griswold family plot. It is between Blount and Saunders streets. Early Griswolds owned land in this area, such as the 1836 Potter house. The reading shows the deaths of many small children.

No. 4 is the Vaughn Vault. T. Vaughn owned a hotel on the Chase grocery site and there is Vaughn Street.

No. 5 was the site of the Queen street or locally known I.O.O.F. Cemetery. Johnson's 1878 History of Washington County reported it was laid out on land of Justin Smith. Because some I.O.O.F. members were laid in it the latter name was applied to it. By 1878 some remains had been removed from it, and in later years the remaining stones have been laid flat and covered.

No. 6 is now called the Boardman Street cemetery, cared for by the village. It really is two cemeteries combined. The north part was laid out by the Martin and Smith families on Justin Smith's land. It was later united with the Boardman -Street cemetery on land of Cyrus Boardman which was opened in 1853. This cemetery was read by the late Floyd Coleman, Robert Fagan and Louis Palmer for the Historical society.

In the vicinity of the Grand Union (*Tops*) store was the Revolutionary Tavern owned by George Ackley and later by the Adams family. The latter family was united with the Kirtland family. Near this area was cemetery No. 7 called the Adams cemetery and No. 8 which was in the rear of the present garage at 9 Kirtland Street. These met the fate of older cemeteries of having the stones in a residential area removed, laid flat and covered or put to some utilitarian use as a walk.

No. 9 marks the spot Of the Williams Street cemetery. It started out as the church cemetery of the church erected by Col. John Williams. It occupied more land to the north on the site of the armory. The interments were moved when this building was erected. One of the persons buried here was the editor of the first Whitehall newspaper, The Emporium. This has been read by the local Historical society and was printed in the New England collection.

Since this listing was made and printed, Mrs. Robert Nash reported a burial in her backyard. She researched the name on the stone and found it to be Samuel Jakway who died in 1843. Samuel was the former owner of the property of the present Nash home. Six small stones are nearby with no writing. His stone has not been destroyed or hidden. It lies face down and the grass around it is carefully kept mowed, safe after a period of over 130 years since he was buried on his own land. The area was not filled with residences at that time.

We hope that other places or readings will be reported for the files of Whitehall's history.

The mystery (?) of Rachel Vine being in the Bartholomew cemetery instead of with Solomon was cleared by Mrs. Doreen St. Clair. Rachel was the second wife. Freelope the first wife is with Solomon. Members of D.A.R. chapter Navy's Birthplace chapter have a fund of knowledge about early Whitehalls and have fun in obtaining it.

The Whitehall Times
January 29, 1976

Whitehall Cemeteries
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

One aspect of the Washington County historical survey of each town is the location of cemeteries. Whitehall has several that could be called family or area graveyards. This list may not be complete. If anyone knows of others not listed, the information would be appreciated.

Robert Beckett, a long time genealogist marked a map for this town list. A great many of these cemeteries are in very poor condition as stones are broken or fallen. Many original markings have been obliterated by weather or by vandals and some are being encroached upon. Some were read fairly recently by members of the Historical Society of Whitehall.

Daniel and Hannah (Perry?) Earll in the vicinity of the Mettowee River Bridge on the Upper Turnpike Road.

The Virgil family, alleged to have been transferred to Greenmount, near the end of Morse road.

Kinner, formerly Wood Creek Cemetery, just off the, Comstock road near the bridge.

Greenmount, off the Granville road near the United Methodist church.

Between Sciota road and the northern road to Fair Haven, with mainly Beckwith people burials.

Burt, Beckwith, Benjamin, on Burt Hill north of Skene Mountain.

Sciota, on Sciota road near Wade road.

Wright family, erratic on which the family names are inscribed but burials transferred to Fair Haven.

McFerran, on the Book farm.

Falkenbury cemeteries two small collections on the Holcombville road.

Stones on the Gould farm, just off the Gould road.

Bartholomew, off the Carlton road, near the corner of the roads that passed the Bartholomew Tavern.

Brick Church off the East Whitehall Methodist church, on 273 to Poultney.

Our Lady of Angels on Route 18 between Buckley and Beckwith roads.

Hatch Hill, formerly Barney, on the Hatch Hill road south of the Welch road.

Brown, off the Comstock road near the Brown residences.

One cemetery that has disappeared over the time known by early historians, was the Skene Cemetery located on the Foote farm.

In the village are:

Armory Cemetery, so-called but originally that of the early Presbyterian church that stood in the vicinity.

Elbow, north of that settlement.

Neddo, opposite the road to the Elbow to the left.

Boardman-Smith at the end of Boardman Street.

Griswold, between North Saunders Street and Blount Street.

Queen Street cemetery on that street probably transferred to others.

Many of the stones have verses written on the face. Some are familiar ones as books containing them were available for copying, but many are original ones of the bereaved families. Many towns are making rubbings from these stones, making lists of the entries and reconstructing the areas by volunteers who are interested in their history, especially in this Bicentennial time. American Legion post of Whitehall plans to mark the Revolutionary soldiers' graves in the town.

The Whitehall Times

January 14, 1971

Williams Street Cemetery

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Williams Street cemetery was read by Joseph W. Emerson, a former resident of Whitehall and Mrs. B. F. Carpenter, a former town historian. Five entries are for the year 1847, the year of LIFE IN WHITEHALL: Jane Faugher, 6 weeks; Martha Lowry, 15 months; Thomas Mead, 32 years; Bridge Sharidin, 24 years; and Liza Ann Watson, 17 months. David Wilson claimed the burial there of two of his main characters, Patrick Mahone, a comely young man, and Barney O'Reilly, the loquacious grave-digger who lent comic relief to the tale. Of course many graves were not marked in early times but these were supposedly highly respected persons.

None of the other characters mentioned were buried in Williams Street Cemetery. Charley O'Leary, notorious keeper of the Shamrock Hotel, was meant to exemplify all despicable among men.

Captain P. T. Davis is mentioned. He was a lake boat captain from Burlington who had charge of some of the steamers. He was captain at one time of SARANAC and had charge of UNITED STATES when it won the race with SALTUS, Captain Harry Tisdale, on 19 August 1847 from St. Johns to Whitehall.

Two doctors mentioned were in Whitehall in 1847, Dr. D. S. Wright and Dr. James P. Milton, who died in 1848 of measles. Samuel Snow "whose house was on a rock on Skene Mountain" was on Whitehall's Poll List of 1839. "Uncle Warner" was Israel Warner, son of Colonel Seth Warner of Revolutionary War times during which he was sent by his father to watch the enemy from Skene Mountain.

The Whitehall Independent

February 11, 1987

Epitaphs

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A stone from what was the old cemetery on East Creek on the Foote farm had this:

Not one full year has rolled away
When this cold corpse now robed in clay
Was clad a fair and blooming bride.
But now the robes are laid aside.
But she did feel no dread alarms
When clad in death's cold chilly arms
Resigned unto the will of God
Her soul betook a blest abode.

(East Creek we know as the Mettawee and the cemetery was known as Skene's Cemetery located on an area he planned to have his home farm.)

Skenesborough and early Whitehall were closely allied with neighboring sections in Hampton, Dresden, and Granville. In those cemeteries are to be found Whitehall families. In the old Middle Granville cemetery one could have found this:

Mr. Abel Comstock, died Sept. 19, 1795, aged 35.
From Musick's Charms by Death's alarms
This mortal life did close.
The Sovereign Lord calls Home his saints
To give them Sweet Repose

In a neighboring town was found this of a nine months old child:

She tasted of life's bitter cup
Refused to drink the potion up
But turned her little head aside,
Disgusted with the taste she died.
Sweet Babe

Daniel Earl was one of the most influential men of early Whitehall. He was supervisor of the town for 31 years. He was buried at the Wishing Elm on Williams Street, near the foot of Wheeler Avenue. Later he was moved to the Moore farm near the old Turnpike across East Creek (Mettawee). This was his monument inscription:

Here lieth the body of Daniel. This monument is erected to his memory by his bereaved wife and his numerous family as a tribute of affection. As a husband he was faithful and kind. As a father, a magistrate, a Christian and a citizen his life is his best elegium and his example worthy of imitation.

In 1977 when the Washington County towns were surveyed for historical information the Town of Whitehall had 27 burial sites listed. These included the cemeteries of the Village. Some of these were family plots with few stones. Some were almost entirely destroyed in number and conditions of stones and the process is still going on.

The Whitehall Research Library has the readings from many of the larger cemeteries and a record of some of the smaller sites. Knowledge of others is sought from anyone who learns of the burials.

This is true of other historical material of Whitehall. Too often comes the information that another house has been emptied of family memorabilia. In it could be diaries, newspapers, programs of early events, account books, school records, organization files that are invaluable to fill in Whitehall's lack of historical materials. The Reference Library has need of them and is ready to serve.

The Whitehall Independent February 4, (Year Unknown)

Epitaphs Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Epitaphs on gravestones are a source of interest to people who visit cemeteries for genealogical purposes especially. Up to the middle of the 19th century there were books containing these sayings just as there were companies like Sears that sold gravestones of metal. Gravestone rubbing is a widespread hobby though I have heard of one such person in Whitehall where over twenty cemeteries, private and public, are in existence.

Clarence Holden in his collection of Whitehall history said of those epitaphs, "Tombstone literature is always interesting frequently peculiar and often humorous. The old gravestones of Whitehall are not without their examples." These are some that he collected.

In the old Williams Street cemetery is the following: Before her departure, Dorcas, wife of Isaac Davis, 1802-1826, embraced the gospel and gave the most satisfactory evidence of exemplary piety united in the communion of the church for the first and last time on earth, and we trust has one to drink the new wine in her Father's Kingdom. Her death is deeply deplored by her relatives and friends in whom her kindness and gentleness of manner inspired sentiments of affection never to be eradicated. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. Henceforth they rest from their labors and their works do follow them. This is undoubtedly the longest and most elaborate epitaph to be found in this section.

In the same cemetery is found the inscription to Joseph Black, 1780-1818 _ with this verse engraved on it:

Stop Stranger and drop a tear
A friend and husband is buried here.
This little Place of Fear and Dread
Yet all must take the same cold bed.

(Joseph Black kept a fruit store on the site of Chase's store.)

In an abandoned graveyard in North Whitehall we find the following: Joseph Clemons, died March 8, 1808, aged 80. He lived in the married state 59 years and met death with holy resignation. One is tempted to wonder whether in spite of or because of. (This would be the cemetery near the Gould farm.)

Over in Hackadam is the following curiosity:
Sarah, Harriette, Julia, Sophia
Was snatched from her parents by a gun's awful fire
In the hands of her brother the gun it was held

And by a sad accident poor Sarah she fell.
(Hackadam is in the northeastern part of Whitehall. Perhaps some one can locate the area more definitely.)

Julia Ann, wife of Leander Burnell, died November 7, 1832, aged 28. This monument is raised by a bereaved and mourning husband to the memory of one who was a loving and virtuous partner, a teacher, and affectionate partner, one who left no enemies but many friends who deeply feel her loss.

On the old Eastman farm is a stone with the inscription: Lorana, daughter of Clark and Betsy Eastman, died March 17, 1831, aged 14 years:

Death that soon you will command,

Death is near at your right hand.

Although you are full of grace

You meet it well with shining grace.

This epitaph was dreamed by the deceased three nights in succession previous to her last sickness. (The Eastman farm was on the Wood Creek road.)

The Whitehall Times December 11, 1975

Hatch Hill Cemetery Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

George Barney at one time owned 1400 acres in Hatch Hill. The 1866 map shows a cemetery on this land. Presently it is called Hatch Hill cemetery but at one time it was named Barney Cemetery. Mr. Walsh supplied two more designations — Haley and Juckett — so-called from families living in the area.

In 1957 this cemetery was read by four boys and the town historian. Many thin, slate slabs are still standing but the weather has erased any record that had been put upon them. The earliest dates found are 1811 for Either Paul; 1813 for Truman and Timothy Blackmer; 1815 for Captain Benjamin DeLamatter, an 1812 soldier; 1816 for Royal Noble; 1817 for Lorraine Stark and Esther Murray; and 1819 for Helen Augusta Wetley.

In 1835 Mary Bigelow, wife of Thomas Bigelow, was buried here. Thomas was the son of Baptist Rev. Hopetill Bigelow, according to Clarence Holden's research. He _ settled in the area in 1759, one of Skene's tenants. On Burgoyne's invasion he took his three daughters to Kingsbury for safety. They were captured by the Indians and taken to Canada. Two were returned but the third desired to remain with her captors.

There are no stones marked for the Fuller family. Squire Aaron Fuller lived in Hatch Hill area. Philip Skene placed a price on his head as Fuller became a guardian of the Skene estate on its capture. He had to work at night clothed in his wife's cape on horseback, to keep out of the way of the Indians and Tories who wished to earn the price.

Other family names in this cemetery are Falkenbury, Davis, (E.E.) McBreen, Morse, Stevens, Rogers, Simons, Stark, VanGuilder, In the Hatch Hill area are two other cemeteries called Falkenburv Cemeteries. These were read about the same time as the

Hatch Hill by Ruth Stevens and her sister Mary, but last report is that the stones are being pulled and piled, a slowly disappearing record of our early history.

The Whitehall Independent
March 11, 1987

Whitehall Civic League and Boardman Cemetery 1908
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Another project of the Civic League was the care of Boardman Cemetery. Originally this cemetery consisted of two small private ones on the knoll bordering Smith Street. Smith cemetery was to the north of Boardman. Later family plots of the Martins, Manvilles, Jones, Gaylords, and other were here, semi-private in nature. These lots were consolidated into one known as Boardman Cemetery. There was no general plan as a whole and no cemetery organization. To correct this condition the Civic Improvement League became interested.

In October 1908 the members voted to form a cemetery association to care for this neglected section. Mrs. John Doren was chosen chair of the committee. In the spring of 1909 letters were sent to owners of the lots explaining this project and requesting that these owners allow the League to care for the lots. In May a Tag Day for funds brought \$302.86. Estimates for a fence to enclose the area were requested. A necessary survey of the land held up the work but it was hoped the fence would be up by winter. By fall three sides had been enclosed, leaving the iron gates and front to be completed in the spring. The gate posts of this first fence are on the Museum grounds. The Civic League had collected a large sum of money for the cemetery work which was turned over to the Cemetery Committee.

In the summer of 1909 concrete steps of the pedestrian's entrance was finished, water was put in, and the care of grass and paths promised. Over the years the committee labored to keep the cemetery in order. The project was written up in the Knickerbocker News of Albany and that brought in permission of more lot owners to place the lots in the care of the committee. Another source of money was the sale of cemetery lots that were given to the committee and then sold. The first such lot was one in Smith Cemetery (this term is still used in the description of this section).

In January 1913 the Boardman heirs gave a deed to the knoll to the village. The Smith area was also given to the trustees about the same time. The trustees in turn placed the cemetery in the hands of the Civic League, who had cared for it so long and gave \$100 as an appropriation. In that year contracts for perpetual care were made with the lot owners and the village agreed to care for the roadways. More lots were entrusted to the committees' care, the fences was kept in order. A triangular plot was made into a flower garden.

In 1931 the Civic League passed a resolution concerning perpetual care of the lots. In 1933 the failure of the National lost them \$1900, some of which was later recovered. At the 13 March 1934 meeting an announcement was made that the Committee would discontinue caring for the cemetery as the village trustees had taken the project over. At a

following meeting a 25 year history of the Civic League's participation in the cemetery was read but no copy of it was placed in the minutes. Now the village has the care of the cemetery and in its records have a map and a list of the burials in Boardman's Cemetery.

The Whitehall Times
March 27, 1980

More About Boardman Cemetery's Fence 1908
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A minute book of the cemetery committee of the Civic Improvement League of Whitehall gave a little fuller account of that fence. The group of women who made up this organization, which was shortened to the Civic League, were the wives of prominent men in business. Names like Doren, Williamson, Dorcal, Bascom, Manville, Brown and Davis among others are familiar.

On 13 October 1908 the Civic League decided to improve the Boardman-Smith cemetery. A special committee was set up, chaired by Mrs. John Doren. This committee solicited the owners of the lots for money with which in 1909 they built a fence around three sides and improved the roads within it.

In 1910 the village trustees allowed the Civil League \$100 for which the ladies agreed to have the grass cut twice a year (and the Williams Street cemetery cut once a year). That year the front iron fence was erected and G.H. Allen supplied free the concrete entrance. The village water was put in with D.A. Rodd controlling the work. However, the water tax was so high that the water was used only two years. The ladies raised money by various means, one of which was a tag day.

In 1913 the village acquired the cemeteries by gift from the Boardman estate and Mrs. Thomas Ryan. They agreed to care for the two family lots, Boardman and Ryan, to keep the vault in good condition and care for the roads and walks. For six years C.H. Jackson took care of the cemetery for the Civic League. After that various men filled the position. By 1924 the village was supplying \$400 for the upkeep.

On 3 March 1927 a notice was placed in the newspaper asking all lot owners to notify the Civic League if they objected to having the fruit trees in the cemetery cut down. The village had cut down the willows at the front. In 1928 florist Conrad Bergmeier was consulted concerning the procedure of obtaining some ornamental trees. Two elm trees had also been set out.

In 1932 the Civic League officers were asked to attend a special meeting with the village trustees. The ladies were informed that the auditor of village accounts said the trustees to give organization money to spend. If the League continued to collect money it would have to be given to the village to be spent. The members of the League said they would finish out the present year. They put the perpetual care lots and the roads in good condition before ending their work.

At the 8 May 1934 meeting the members decided that the work of the committee of the cemetery would be discontinued. They sent letter to the out-of-town people informing them that the League was giving up the work on the cemetery and turning the

books over to the village trustees. This ended 25 year service of the Civic Improvement League to the village. A report of this 25 year period was given the members at their annual banquet.

The Civic League performed many services for the village. Among other one well known was the making of the Riverside Park when John O'Neil was mayor of the village.

The Whitehall Times November 23, 1978

Village Records of 1860's Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Associated Reform Church of Whitehall was located on Williams Street together with its parsonage and burying ground. This church on 18 September 1819 united with the Presbyterian of Columbia under the care of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States. The Williams Street Cemetery was in the ground of this church and were left behind when the church building site was changed.

On 29 April 1867 the village trustees appointed a committee of three to examine the condition of the fences of the old burying ground on Williams Street and report at the, next meeting the expense of putting it in order. No report was recorded and later a committee of two was appointed to investigate the matter of building a fence on the east side of the old burying ground and report to the board the expense of the same.

Two years later 26 July 1869 two others were appointed to inquire into the expenditure of closing the burying ground and procuring other ground for burial purposes and report at the next meeting. They were given time for further study.

Two years later 7 August 1871 O. F. Davis reported on behalf of the citizens on the east side of the creek for the Presbyterian Society in relation to this burying ground regarding the fencing of the grounds and its closing. The citizens felt that since the grounds were full and in the heart of the village they should be closed. The title was in the hands of the Presbyterian Society but the society had surrendered the burying ground to the village 25 years before and had been kept in repairs by the village. They were asking that the village take steps to close the cemetery in order to preserve the health of the inhabitants residing in its vicinity.

On that date the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved: That the burying ground, on the east side of Wood Creek in the Village of Whitehall, known as the Presbyterian Society grounds, be properly fenced and the same be closed except to those who have private lots in its grounds.

On motion the president of the board of trustees was voted to hire a suitable person to take charge of the aforesaid ground and see that the provisions of the resolution were carried out. The minutes were ordered to be published in the newspaper.

The Whitehall Times September 9, 1971

**(Title Unknown)
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Mention has been made of the value of even one issue of a newspaper. Here is an example. Recently Mrs. Herman Canton gave to the Historical society nine copies of the Whitehall Times and Whitehall Chronicle of 1910 and 1911 years in which the society has very few issues. Although brittle, these can be copied on a 3M copier and the information in them saved.

What was in them? Two accounts of Whitehall's centenarians (Who spread that story that Whitehall Is unhealthy?); the inconvenience of Whitehallers when the bridges over the canal were removed when the last Lock 12 was built; talk of a trolley line to Fair Haven; our champion hose company; community work of the Civic League; bill passed for the construction of a bridge over South Bay with a picture; the plan of a scholarship to be given by The Whitehall Times -- all these worthy of saving for Whitehall's history, and of which you will hear later.

CEMETERY means different things to different people. To some it means a source of ghostly tall tales or a reminder of literature's grave robbers; to others it means a quiet memorial place. Cities now are making them park like places. Japanese use them as a site of family picnics, with reverence for their ancestors.

Cemeteries around Whitehall fit into only one of these categories. Many family cemeteries have disappeared in farm fields or cow pastures and the stones of some pulled and piled and broken. Some of these have been read and the records preserved; others not. Our larger cemeteries have perpetual care through cemetery organizations.

One of our cemeteries could become a scenic spot in our village; Williams Street Cemetery. When visitors go to the armory to see the silver birch trees and our Revolutionary cannon, just a step farther could take them into a place that commemorates Whitehall's early people and history. Repair of stones, cutting of brush, and enclosure with a fence would not be too difficult for the town, which mows the cemetery annually, and for the descendants who have a pride in their ancestry.

Williams Street Cemetery was a part of the churchyard of the church erected by Colonel John Williams: in which building the Associated Reformed Church was organized, the forerunner of the First Presbyterian church. This cemetery was read by Dr. Joseph W. Emerson in the fifties and printed in the New England Registrar.

The first two recorded entries are of drowning, an incident not unusual for Whitehall's lake. The canal was not built in 1804 when Capt. Samuel Paine was drowned 27 years old, or in 1807 when William Rock, aged four years, was taken.

In 1808 one entry was made, that of Esther, wife of Nathaniel Hall who survived her by 17 years. This Nathaniel Hall was an outstanding person in our early history. The naming of Whitehall was erroneously ascribed to his as an important personage to name it after. However, he was but a boy in 1786, having been born in 1775. He held offices such as justice of the peace and committeeman and was town clerk from 1808 to 1811.

From time to time there will be more on the personages interred in William Street Cemetery.

Churches

The Whitehall Times
July 29, 1982

Whitehall in the 1830's
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The interview with "the little old lady under the hill" continues with a description of Whitehall in the 1830's with some added information.

"Of the churches there were only the Methodist (1832) and the Presbyterian (1819). The clergyman who officiated in the latter was Rev. Mr. Fleming. The building occupied by the society was moved in 1826 from the old burying ground on Williams Street. As time advanced it was moved to the rear of the lot and the present structure built in front."

(In 1838 'the Trinity Episcopal building was constructed at the southwest corner of Division and present Broadway on the site of the Masonic Temple. The interviewee talked only of the village. In the town there was in this period also the First Congregational Church, "The White Church," built in 1813, burned in 1834 and rebuilt by 1836. On the 1866 map it is located near the first four corners on the road to Sciota. Cornelius Jones was one of the first pastors. The East Whitehall Methodist Church was erected in 1826 and still stands.)

"The schools were district ones with the exception of occasional select schools kept by individuals. Joseph Smith was one of the teachers. Another was Allen, a cousin of M. J. Myers, so long one of the leading merchants. He was an excellent teacher, and one who strictly enforced obedience, as some who are living at the present day can testify. He taught in the old academy which stood where Nathan Jillson's residence now stands (at the northwest corner of Center and Division Streets).

"It was in that same building, the upper part of it, that the Episcopalians, when the society was organized, held their first services. They occupied it until the church was built, afterwards used by the Baptists, at the corner of Church and Division Streets. The first settled clergyman was the Rev. Palmer Dyer, who on the first day of August, 1844, was drowned at Ausable Chasm, Keeseville. He was crossing a bridge at a point called High Bridge in the company of two ladies. He got one over safely but in aiding the other, a log moved and though he helped her to a place of safety was himself precipitated to the stream below. His death left an empty place that was never filled."

The Whitehall Times
July 13, 1972

Millerite Chapel 1848
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

One of the historic churches opened for Whitehall's Old Home Week was the Millerite Chapel in Low Hampton. Although it is outside the Town of Whitehall its history and its early inhabitants were in the area of old Skenesborough and many descendants now live in Whitehall.

The Chapel of Greek Renaissance Revival architecture is a small building open once a year for services to which Advent Christians and Seventh Day Adventists, who own it, come from all over the world.

Built in 1848 after the congregation separated from the formal ? Church, it contains a plaque with the names of the charter members: A. C. Church, William Miller, Lucy P. Miller, Myra Bosworth, Robbins Miller, Mary B. Miller, David Bosworth, Melina Bosworth, Alonso Phelps, Rhoda B. Phelps, Solomon P. Miller, Wealthy H. Miller, Lucy A. Miller, Eleanor B. Hulett, Squire West, Harrison Phelps, Anna H. Phelps, William S. Miller, Belona Miller, Franklin Millard.

Four windows have a border of colored glass which bears memorials: William Miller; his wife Lucy P. Miller; the second clergyman Rev. David Bosworth; the Message of 1843 and 1844. The hand pumped organ can still be used along with the Sunflower stove. Over the lectern are the words: "For the Time Appointed The End Shall Be." These are also on the Miller stone in the nearby cemetery. His home is also nearby.

William Miller was the founder of the faith known as the Millerites. His earnestness and sincerity drew to him not the flashy and easy converts of emotionalism but the educated ministers and religious leaders of the times, many of whom did not agree with him as to the literal second advent but did agree with his message. Many who repeat the stories of the White-robed followers who went to the hill tops in 1843 after selling all their belongings forget that these were in the minority; that the earnest believers were at home or in their churches in devotions.

The Whitehall Times
December 17, 1970

Trinity Episcopal Church 1866
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

It is sad to think that another old structure of Whitehall may soon be razed. The Trinity

Church (Episcopal) is now the oldest church structure within the village, having been erected in 1886. Its tall spire with the cross is the symbol that Americans for centuries have connected with a place of worship. Its simplicity of structure is

reminiscent of the earlier churches which were often the first public buildings to be erected in new settlements. Inside, the ceiling soars upward with the architectural design, not with an idea of warmth in winter, but for beauty and dignity.

This beautiful church is the third Episcopal structure built in Whitehall. The first built in Whitehall. The first building erected in 1837, stood on the site of the present Masonic Temple. Its foundation structure contained the keystone of Philip Skene's house. The second building was constructed on the site of Longtin's filling station in 1843. The present one was opened in 1866.

The Whitehall Times
August 24, 1972

Washington County News, June 1872
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Religious Notes give us the names of the clergymen of 100 years ago of five of the six churches: Methodist, R.T. Harwood; Baptist, C. A. Johnson; Presbyterian, C. J. Hill; Our Lady of Angels, J. J. McDonald; Notre Dame, Francis A. Payette. News items tell of picnics, conventions and weekly prayer meetings. This was the year that the Presbyterian Church lost its front pillars in renovation.

The Whitehall Times
September 27, 1973

September 1873
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Rev. J.J. McDonnell's house is up two stories. It has a basement and a mansard roof. The second and first stories have plazas 13 feet wide. The basement has a kitchen, a dining room, a cellar, and a furnace room. The second floor parlors are 35 by 16 feet wide with folding doors with a large hall and an office, 20 feet square. The third floor is set aside for a smoking or general recreation room. Every room is to have a fireplace and grate. The builder is A. C. Hopson and the mason, George Goodale.

The Whitehall Times
March 29, 1973

March 1873
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Members of Our Lady of Angels met March 2 with the Rev. J. J. McDonald and decided to erect a new parsonage, not to exceed in cost \$5,000 the sum to be raised by subscription. The subscription started right then with 68 members pledging to a total of \$1,422.

The Whitehall Times
April 4, 1974

Presbyterian Church September 1873
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Presbyterian Church is painted inside, now a light cream with dark trimming on the outside pillars and corners. The preacher's platform and pulpit has been two lowered feet. There's a handsome black walnut stand allowing the people in the front pews not to break their necks.

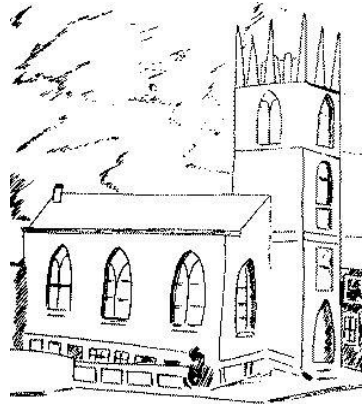
The Whitehall Times
November 29, 1973

November 1873
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Rev. Henry C. Hutchins of Albany accepted a call of the vestry of Trinity Church and would assume office in December.

The Whitehall Times
April 4, 1974

Baptist Church Fire in 1874
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



Anniversary Bells: April 8,
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Georgi; April 9, Mr. and Mrs. Leon Gonyea; April 10, Mr. and
Mrs. Roy Rich.

Baptist Church Fire In 1874
On Church Street

The accompanying sketch was taken from a stereopticon owned by the Historical Society of Whitehall and made by L. H. Fillmore, Landscape Photographer of Whitehall. Too faint for photographic reproduction, it was copied by hand by Mrs. Carol Greenough so that the outline could be photographed. This building stood on the corner of Church and Division streets where the Masonic Temple now stands. It was formerly a site of a fire engine house.

Church Street was aptly named, though we do not know the date of its appellation. The Presbyterian Church was located there in 1826; the Methodist Church in 1832; the first Episcopal Church. St. Paul's, in 1838; St. Anthony's Catholic Church in 1841; the second Episcopal Church, which became Trinity, in 1843; The First Baptist Church in 1845; Notre Dame des Victoires in 1868 which was the second Episcopal Church building; and the Third Episcopal Church in 1865. The street that extended from about the present Kingsley's garage north became extinct in name after the railroad change in 1933 and is now a part of Broadway.

The First Baptist Church building, which had been purchased by the Baptist Congregation in 1845, was the first Episcopal Church's building. At 12:10 Feb. 13, 1874, the building burned during a heavy rainstorm. Soon after discovery of the fire the church was completely ablaze from basement to steeple. The glare of the flames, the huge clouds of smoke, the roar of the fire and the flying cinders made it an awesome sight. Other buildings added steam and smoke from the heat.

Burned with it was a tenant building housing 14 families, who were able save their furniture, and double family house occupied by two families. Other buildings were kept from burning by being wet down by streams of water from the fire steamers and the soaking of blankets, quilts and rugs covering the flammable portions.

History repeats itself. ” We recall the occasion recently when the fire engine could not get across the South Bay Bailey Bridge to a fire. At the time in 1874 one fire engine could not pass another on the narrow bridge across the canal to the west of Wood Creek. This delayed the work of the firemen.

As is usual in Whitehall, other churches in the village promptly extended expressions of sympathy and offered the use of their buildings for worship during the process of rebuilding. The Baptist congregation gratefully accepted the Presbyterian offer as it was nearest the former scene of their building.

The day following the fire, the cornerstone of the church was opened, and the relics of the first Episcopal Church taken out. Since the 18-inch square leaden box had not been sealed, the contents were not in perfect condition. These were a copy of the religious paper The Messenger of 13 Dec. 1838, the Churchman of 1838; the Farmer’s Almanac published by D. S. Wright and Co. of Whitehall (he was an early warden of the church); a pamphlet “Every Christian a Missionary.”

Eleven copper and two silver coins were enclosed — an 1837 dime as bright as when it left the mint; a Spanish shilling flattened and stamped with the initials D. S. W.; a copper cent marked W. E. Caldwell, May 1838; another labeled Copper Coin. Substitute for Shin Plaster November 1837” and on the reverse Species payment suspended 1837.”

A common prayer book and a subscription list of the names of the donors to the building of the church completed the contents. Unfortunately the list of names was illegible. The contents were given to the Episcopal Church.

In the wall of the basement was found the keystone of Philip Skene’s house, indicating that the ruins of his house and barn were used for other buildings in the village.

The stone was carried to that First National bank and kept there in the vault until one day someone calmly removed it and sent it to Chicago (the latest place). Members of the - Masonic order discovered its location and were instrumental in getting it back to Whitehall. It now rests on the mantle of the Masonic temple and is used in their rites.

The stone is marked P.K.S. and 1771. The initials are for Philip and his wife Katharine and the 1772 the date of his house. It seems to be the only part of the early buildings of Skene left to us.

The Whitehall Times **July 4, 1974**

Miller Chapel and Baptist Church, Low Hampton 1874 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

The Miller Chapel is in Hampton of course. The White church, Congregational, was in Whitehall. When these are spoken of, a third church is mentioned, which many do not realize existed. It stood across the road from the chapel and in it preached William

Miller's father-in-law Phelps and William Miller himself. With the formation of the Advent theory, the congregation was divided and the Miller chapel was built

What happened to the Baptist church? The copy a June 1874 gives the answer "The Baptist Church in this village (Fair Haven) is nearly completed. The church is an offshoot of the old Baptist Church in Low Hampton. The Low Hampton Church prior to 1843 was prosperous until the Second Advent doctrine of the close of all earthly scenes in 1853. That doctrine divided the church, though it had a name to live for some five or six years later. The time arrived when it should cease to have even a name to live. About 1848 some of the members withdrew and built up the church at Hydeville. Those members residing in Fair Haven feared they had made a mistake in going to Hydeville so a few years ago they started the present church in Fair Haven. From a dozen members at that time they have grown to be a church of over 100 members at the present date. About five years ago they commenced the present church.

It is expected to be dedicated about the first of July.

The church building in Low Hampton has disappeared. This information also answers the question of whether the Baptist Church of Whitehall was an offshoot of Low Hampton's. It was not, as is indicated in its name the First Baptist Church of Whitehall.

The Whitehall Times **July 21, 1988**

Baptist Church Fire in 1874 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

This was the year of the burning of the Baptist Church on the site of the Masonic Temple. The congregation soon had a site chosen Williams Street. By September they were deciding on a contract with Bennett Brothers in Glens Falls. The outside walls were to be a course of brick held in place with black mortar. Succeeding papers hopefully will tell more of the church.

The Whitehall Times **July 4, 1974**

Baptist Church 1874 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

In the June papers is a notice of the new church building of the Whitehall Baptist church, to be erected on the Harris lot on Williams Street. The building was planned to be of brick trimmed with stone, of the gothic style. It would contain an auditory to hold 450 to 500 people, a baptistery, a gallery, and a Sabbath school room. The estimated cost was \$30,000.

The Whitehall Times
May 27, 1976

Baptist Church 1876
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The first service in the new Baptist Church, 7 May, was a baptismal, Rev. Mr. Haynes using the new font. This church's first building had been at the corner of Church and Division streets, on the site of the present Masonic Temple. It burned in 1874 and from its basement wall was rescued the keystone of Philip Skene's house which is now in the Masonic temple. The first marriage in the new Baptist Church was Miss Mary Buel, daughter of Harvey Buel, to A P. Abbott of Rutland.

In this same week the ladies of the Baptist Church began their plans for a Centennial Tea Party to benefit the New York State Ladies Centennial banner. This tea was held at the Opera House 16 May. The people were costumed as characters of 1776; George and Martha Washington, Major Andre, Mrs. Philip Schuyler, Mrs. Putnam, and so on. Tables of food were for sale and tables were loaded with relics of the past, including family mementoes of the Mayflower, William Miller's family. The profit made was \$100 which was sent to Albany for the banner.

This New York State Centennial banner was presented 31 May by ex-Governor Seymour to Governor Hoffman. It was of blue silk 12 by 18 feet. Its central figure was the state arms, figures of Liberty and Justice, life sized. The rising sun was said to be a miracle in embroidery; In addition to the state motto was a printed motto worked in letters of gold "From the Daughters of New York to Their Sisters of the Union." Below the arms was the sentiment inscribed below the dates 1776-1876 "The Lord God be with us as He was with our fathers." The staff was made of native New York woods.

The Whitehall Times
August 22, 1985

Our Lady of Angels
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Records tell us that the first Catholic Congregation in Whitehall was divided in 1868 when the Village had acquired the land on which their edifice stood. Notre Dame moved into the second Episcopal Church across the street about the site of Longtin's Service Station and Our Lady of Angels decided to erect their own building.

Clarence Holden in his collecting of Whitehall history made a great many interviews with older people of the village. This account of the dedication of the church of Our Lady of Angels was one of those interviews. He did not give the name of the person he interviewed and left out some of the details the interviewer made, regrettably for us. Perhaps it is recorded in someone's scrapbook or diary.

The new church of “Our Lady of Angels” was consecrated with imposing ceremonies on Sunday 15 November 1870. The edifice is of brick in the Gothic style of Architecture. An observer describes it:

“Of the wonderful beauty of the inside, of the elegant and graceful columns, of its magnificent arches, of its long and stately nave, of its elaborate and splendid frescoing no one can have a conception except those who have visited it. On entering one finds himself in an immense audience room, 48 by 50 feet. The central part of the nave consists of a succession of arches supported by twelve fluted gothic columns, six on each side. The caps of the columns are ornamented with massive gilt crosses standing out in relief from a violet field while around the top of the cap is a most exquisite vine of green and gold. At the end of the nave is the altar erected on a platform. The altar is in the gothic style with a revolving tabernacle having the typical colors of white, red, and violet.”

The observer went on at a great length describing the paintings and inscriptions, the part we don’t have. He then concludes “For ourselves we are free to acknowledge we are filled with the most profound emotion. Every sensibility in our nature, aesthetic and religious, alike were thrilled with the keenest and most exquisite pleasure. We could sit for hours contemplating the perfection of the artist’s work.”

The painter who brought these works was Ertle of New York City.
The rectory of Our Lady of Angels was constructed in 1872.

The Whitehall Times
November 25, 1882

November 1882
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The churches were active with annual fairs this month. Father McDonald’s was very successful, almost \$1400 being realized. The proceeds were earmarked for a new church and rectory. The Presbyterian and Baptist ladies specialized in prizes for special items like a guessing contest to find how much money was secreted in a beautifully dressed doll.

The Whitehall Independent
April 25, 1884

April 1884
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Methodist Conference at Amsterdam appointed J. Zweifel from Hartford to the Whitehall Church and as supply to East Whitehall Church.

The Whitehall Independent
December 19, 1984

Christmas Time 1884
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The new bell in Father McDonnell's church, large and pleasant toned, rang out a Christmas Carol on Christmas Day.

The Presbyterian Sabbath School presented a Christmas Cantata at Hall's Opera House. Admission price 15 cents.

Trinity Church purchased the Tisdale property adjoining the church to the south. A generous Christmas church offering was suggested.

The Trinity Church children's service with Christmas' Carols was held on Christmas Day (Thursday) with a Christmas Tree Festival on Saturday.

The Whitehall Independent
January 9, 1985

Summer Events of 1884
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Two more bells were added to the chime at Trinity Church. They were a 600 pound one in memory of Charles H. Tisdale and a 500 pound one in memory of Victoria A. McMillan.

The Whitehall Independent
January 16, 1985

A Picnic
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

On 13 August, Trinity Church Sunday School had a picnic on Wood Creek Road at the farm of J. B. Johnson. Whitehall Lumber Company loaned a lighter and Mr. Mahan furnished a team and a driver for the ride through the canal.

The canal boat was a "gay gondolo". The State team was very prancing studs, which pawed, neighed, and thundered. Pecois Orchestra was hidden beneath waving ribbons and handkerchiefs. Passing trains greeted them with whistle and belt. The B flat cornet man leaned over and blew his tones in the ear of a south bound mule. The animal

struggled to join the party northbound and only with oats could the animal be subdued. The children had the “best time in their lives”.

The Whitehall Times

April 2, 1887

May 1887

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Methodist Episcopal Church, under Reverend F. G. Rainey, installed an Estey Philharmonic Chapel Organ. It was of the latest style made of rosewood. It was paid for by subscriptions and played for the first time 18 May.

The Whitehall Times

April 2, 1887

June 1884

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The new priest for Notre Dame was Rev. Father Ethier from Canada

The Whitehall Times

February 26, 1887

Whitehall in 1887

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

It is always interesting to learn of treasures that Whitehall once had. The description of the redecoration of Trinity Episcopal Church, built in 1886, suggest a beautiful interior. There is a picture in the Pictorial History of Whitehall. The carpenter work was done by James Busteed and the fresco by Messrs Fred and Gordon Greenough under the direction of a firm from Troy.

The frescoing was in light colors of olive and yellow with gold set designs. The ceiling was an effective cloud work with golden stars. A circular window was placed above the front entrance with colored glass. The chancel side walls were in brown terra cotta panels, separated by gold bars. There were numerous refulgent crosses surrounded by gold circles. At the back of the altar the walls were covered, the word ALLELULA on each side of the windows. The wood of the chancel was polished beech.

The new organ was placed in the north corner in front of the chancel. On Saturday 2 April the townspeople were in attendance to view the new decorations and hear the organ played by Mrs. O. A. Manville and Miss Minerva Warner, the organist. It

contained 500 pipes, 18 stops, and two sets of keys. The case was made of chestnut and the pipes were ornamented with the colors of the church. Its cost was \$2500 from the Odell Company, a gift of Robert H. Cook. It was first for service on Easter Sunday.

The Whitehall Times **April 19, 1978**

Several Churches in the 1890's **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Whitehall has always had musical talent. During the 1890's newspaper accounts covered many occasions during which solos, duets, quartets, and choruses were a main feature. This was especially true for Easter Sunday 18 April 1897.

The six churches of Whitehall at that time conducted "services appropriate to the day and season, with attempts to outshine their excellent efforts in the past, vying with each other in the excellence of their present musical productions".

The names of the musicians are a roll call of Whitehall's prominent families. At the First Baptist Church solos were rendered by Mrs. R. C. Cooke, Mrs. T. A. Lillie, Carrie Hendrick, Lucille Cooke and Dr. Edward Joslin.

The Methodist Episcopal Church music program was in the hands, or rather voices, of the Sunday School Scholars, with adult leaders; Organist Mrs. C. G. Davis; musical director; E. W. Skeels; cornetist, William N. Skeels; Bessie Buel, a local favorite, sang the solo "Crucifixion" at even song and the male quartet of Richard W. Atwell, Owen Osborne, William N. Skeels and John Graulich gave a selection.

Notre Dame Des Victoires had special music, vocal and instrumental. The familiar names of the vocalists were Mrs. P. Henderson, Rose Pechet, Frances and Bertha Waters, Mary Dussault, Kittie Robetor, Gaspard Dussault and Charles Renois, Instrumentalists were C. E. Pond, C. H. Renois, B. F. Waters, C. J. Vannier and Jonas Paro.

Our Lady of Angels had Easter music performed by Mrs. Charles Barker, Mame Cody, Grace Corbett, Katherine Shields, Anna O'Neil, Lillian Mae Parke, George Noyes and Charles Childs. Anna Gilligan was the organist.

The Presbyterian Church services contained some special music. The cantata "Gethsemane" composed in 1892 was given for the seventh time in this country and an anthem "Easter Dawn" composed by the director of the choir, Herman E. Sullivan, was introduced. The musicians were Jennie E. Jones, Frank E. Wilson, William S. McLachlin and Herman E. Sullivan, with Helen C. Smith organist and Alonzo Burt violinist.

The Trinity Episcopal Church had a first also. The new male surpliced choir of men and boys, 24 in number, took part in the service for the first time. Lawrence D. Tefft directed Leon Foote, David Inglee, Fred Ingalls, Louis Pierson, Willie Kelly, Harry Dalton, Buell Ames, Kenneth Newcomb, Timothy Inglee, Walter Richards, Adams Brown, Will Inglee, George Douglass, George Cook, Fred Williams, Edward Taylor, Frank Matte, Owen Osborne, Herne McKee, H. B. Skeels, Wilson Emerson and Robert Williams. The ten ladies of the former choir were thanked for making the vestments for the men and "continued to sing, though not taking part in the processional,"

And as the accounts related “Throwing off the sadness and gloom of the Lenten Season, Easter burst forth in gladness and bloom, All was bright and gladsome, birds and blossoms, and song and music were on every hand.”

The Whitehall Times
August 19, 1982

Whitehall in August 1892
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The French Catholic Church was greatly improved with a new roof. New front and a new fence; Rev. Father Adam had made, many improvements since his advent. This church stood on the site of the present Leo’s Filling Station (*Longtin’s Garage*), before the congregation built the present edifice.

The Whitehall Times
September 25, 1980

Notre Dame des Victoires 1894
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Five thousand people attending a cornerstone lying at a time when there were no automobiles? But such was the case 26 August 1894 when this number attended the laying of the cornerstone of the new Catholic Church at the southeast corner of Wheeler Avenue and Skene Street.

The first Catholic Church of Whitehall was built in 1840 at Saunders Street where it entered Church Street, about the top of the present tunnel. In 1868 the village took the land to extend Saunders Street to Canal (Main) Street. As the congregation composed of English and French speaking people they took the opportunity to separate. The English speaking folk built Our Lady of Angels Church, while the French purchased the second Trinity Episcopal Church which stood about where Longtin’s Texaco Station does now. Here they worshipped until they purchased land facing Skene Street and constructed a new building.

26 August was a clear and cool Sunday. The land had been terraced and the streets sprinkled. Three excursion trains arrived, one from Rutland with 500 people and two from Glens Falls, one a local and one a through train, bearing about 1,000 from the city alone. Several hundred arrived by carriage and wheels.

Father Ethier’s 25-piece band led the spectators from the station to the platform of the basement which had been floored over. Seated on the platform were members of the French societies, the. Juvenile Band, the Ninth Separate Company Band, prominent townspeople, the Bishop and 12 priests, in full regalia, from nearby towns and Canada.

Father Sternon of Montreal gave a one-hour sermon in French which included the history of the church, its services and names of former pastors. The stone laying ceremony was performed by Bishop Burke. The Bishop and priests walked around the building, the Bishop sprinkling the ground with holy water.

The cornerstone, quarried in New Jersey was brown in color. It was donated by Mrs. Dale, the wife of the silk mill superintendent. In it later was to be placed a lead box containing a record of the day's doings and the village newspapers.

After this Bishop Burke presented an address in French, emphasizing that though the church had been built for the French Canadians of Whitehall, it was a house of worship for all people.

The trains returned about 1p.m. and the great crowd of spectators dispersed.

This material on the Cornerstone exercises at Notre Dame was obtained from a scrapbook given by Mrs. Marie Given. It contains much material on people and societies of Whitehall.

**The Whitehall Times
December 12, 1985**

**Bits and Pieces 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

On 6 August Rev. C. R. Quinn of the Trinity Church laid the corner stone of the new parish house. It was to be nearly as large as the one in Glens Falls. The main hall was to be used as a dining room with a stage in one side (the north end as I remember) and a balcony at the other. The hall would be large enough for church shows and basketball. At the same time the new church rectory was almost completed. It replaced the one that had stood near Church Street.

**The Whitehall Times
January 9, 1986**

**Bits and Pieces 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

The Holy Angels of Our Lady of Angels elected its officers: President Catherine Vallio, Vice-president Vera Scism, Treasurer Lillian Young, Secretary Leona Mayo, and the junior holy name president Donald Whalen, vice president George Mears, Secretary Henry Mercier, Treasurer William Burns.

The Whitehall Times
January 23, 1986

Bits and Pieces 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The school contracted with Trinity Church for the use the Trinity Parish Hall soon to be completed. It was to be used for a gymnasium as there was no other place in the village for such a purpose. The Knights of Columbus would use it for its winter schedule as it had a fast team this year. The hall would seat 500 people with the use of bleachers.

The Whitehall Times
February 27, 1986

Bits and Pieces 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Trinity Episcopal Church House was opened formally with a supper. Seating at eight tables was 144 and 400 enjoyed the supper, at tables gleaming with silver, white linen, glass, and candles. It was deemed the building would be a credit to the community and all denominations would use it.

The Whitehall Times
July 23, 1987

Town Topics-1914-1915
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Trinity Church This church planned to hold a fiftieth anniversary of its consecration, 12 July 1916, of its third church building. Reverend Clarence R. Quinn planned a week's celebration with Glens Falls and Warrensburg churches which had had a similar consecration within three successive days. This third church was on the site of the present church. The first church had been erected in 1838 after the normal organization in 1834. This church was on the site of the present Masonic Temple. It was transferred to a site about where Longtin's Garage now is located, and in 1865 removed to a building on the site of its fourth home place now.

Claims of Birthplace of U. S. Navy

The Whitehall Times

October 22, 1970

First Column

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The history of Whitehall is rich in events, outstanding persons, and buildings. The purpose of this column is to explore many of these facets.

Comments, inquiries, and information are invited.

Whitehall was founded in 1759 according to historical documents; yet on the state historical marker to the east of the village it has been stated as 1761.

The first ship specifically armed for war in the Colonial Navy was built in Whitehall by Philip Skene. Originally it was named KATHARINE for his wife, but the Americans rechristened it LIBERTY.

Do you know that Marines came to Whitehall with sailors to take this ship?

Do you know that Skenesborough Museum is listed In The Repertory of Maritime Museums and Collections compiled by S. Van Beylan in Antwerp, Belgium? This 679 page repertory contains listings of such museums in 30 countries of the world and 28 states.

The Whitehall Times

December 24, 1970

Seven Claims

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

These seven places, then, claim the Birthplace of the United States Navy: Beverly, Machias, Marblehead, Philadelphia, Portsmouth, Salem and Whitehall.

The United States Naval Department tells us that since each place played a significant part in the Revolution it would not want to name any particular one as the birthplace.

However, we like to think ours is the first in time element and in important naval action. To recapitulate: Whitehall, 15—18 May 1775; Salem, 26—27 May; Machias, 12 June; Beverly and Marblehead, 10 October; Philadelphia, 13 October; Portsmouth, 16 December.

Our next claim is the only fleet that saw action in the Revolution which will be taken up in later columns.

I was pleased to receive a first formal answer to this column. I wrote that a frigate was in action during the 17, 18 and 19 centuries. But a frigate still is a United States warship used often on escort duty, as many of our veterans know through experience

The Whitehall Times
November 5, 1970

Whitehall's Claim
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Many inquire the basis of Whitehall's claim as the Birthplace of the United States Navy. It might be well to examine our claim and the claim of others in successive articles.

Some say this action on Lake Champlain was unauthorized and so was not a part of the Revolution. Do they dispute Lexington and Concord and the capture of Ticonderoga as not part of the Revolution? These were past when Colonel Arnold's sailors and marines took the LIBERTY down the lake to Crown Point.

There on 15 May 1775 Arnold armed this ship for a deliberate act of war, thus making tie LIBERTY the first ship of the Colonial Navy and the first ship armed with war in mind. This is our first claim.

On 18 May 1775 Colonel Arnold and his men on the LIBERTY entered the harbor at St. John's and seized a British sloop, some other ships, and supplies. This was the first British ship to strike its colors to the Americans. The capture of this ship, renamed ENTERPRISE, is our second claim to the Birthplace.

On the way back to Crown Point Arnold drew up the payroll of the ENTERPRISE. This document is in our national Archives and the explanation under it says this sloop was taken by American soldiers, sailors and marines.

This is our third claim to the Birthplace. This paper negates the oft repeated statement that the army manned the ships. Arnold himself was a sailor, He had sailors with him and his marines made their first amphibious landing at St. Johns.

With these ships Arnold kept Lake Champlain free of the British during the summer of 1775.

A recent inquiry came from the Natural Ice Museum of North America in Mequon, Wis., regarding natural ice. This museum is especially interested in expanding its collection and bibliography. Whitehall was involved in this industry, even to the extent of shipping ice to New York City. Can anyone help in listing tools that Whitehall has and giving Information on this phase of our history?

There is a handwritten note in the margin of this article. It is difficult to read. This is the best I can determine: Congress paid the wages, notes to 3 May and recognized N.Y. was action, but not the other claims at that time.

The Whitehall Times
November 12, 1970

Beverly
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Beverly, Massachusetts', claim to the birthplace of the United States Navy, is based on two factors: Schooner HANNAH and the outfitting of most of Washington's Navy in the port.

In August, 1775, Gen. Washington ordered HANNAH to be outfitted with arms, ammunition, and provisions to seize British cargo ships entering colonial harbors. Under Capt. Nicholas Broughton, who started this work 5 September 1775, many ships were seized but almost all were released to their original owners as not being legal prizes.

So great was the HANNAH's threat to the British that HMS NAUTILUS was ordered to destroy her. Beverly calls this the first "planned naval battle" of the Revolution. HANNAH was grounded at Beverly and the citizens helped drive the NAUTILUS away.

Other ships of Washington's Navy, which was finally approved by Congress 2 December 1775, were outfitted in Beverly and did much damage to British shipping.

The outfitting of HANNAH occurred about three months after the outfitting of LIBERTY for an act of war, and the first "planned naval battle" was 10 October 1776, almost five months after the capture of ENTERPRISE, planned by Benedict Arnold.

The Whitehall Times
November 19, 1970

Marblehead
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Interestingly enough the claim of Marblehead, Mass., to the birthplace of the United States Navy is based on the same ship and the same men in the Beverly, Mass., claim.

John Glover, owner of schooner HANNAH, was originally a Marblehead man. The first crew of the ship were Marbleheaders, and Marblehead suspects that HANNAH was built in her shipyard, although it can not be proved definitely. Nicholas Broughton, HANNAH's first captain under General Washington's commission, was also a Marbleheader.

Even so, Marblehead's event, like those of Beverly, occurred almost five months after the capture of ENTERPRISE by Benedict Arnold.

The Whitehall Times
November 26, 1970

Machias
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Machias, Maine, lays claim to the birthplace of the United States Navy through the capture of the British schooner, MARGARETTA, 12 June 1775.

Gen. Gage sent this schooner to Machias to guard two sloops there which were to exchange provisions for lumber to take to Boston. The Sons of Liberty determined to stop Capt. Ichabod Jones from supplying the King's troops with anything whatsoever.

On 11 June 1775, after failing to take him while he attended church services, as he escaped through a window, the Sons followed him to the river, raided one of the sloops and took possession of the other.

Capt. Jones dropped down the river in an attempt to escape but the Sons and their friends followed him by boat. On 12 June, after an engagement of one and one-half hours, MARGARETTA was captured at the mouth of the Machias River. This the people of Machias call the first British ship to strike colors to the Americans.

But this was 12 June; almost a month after Benedict Arnold and his men captured the ENTERPRISE at St. John's.

The Whitehall Times
December 3, 1970

Salem
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Salem, Mass., also claims to be the birthplace of the United States Navy

On 27 April 1775 the Province of Massachusetts hired Captain John Derby with his ship QUERO to carry express the news of the Battle of Lexington and Concord to England. He was to with stall if possible, General Thomas Gages dispatches which had been sent four days before in the SUKEY.

QUERO did arrive first, 26 & 27 May and did tell the story which disturbed Lord Dartmouth who had no love for the "Rebels." This seems to be messenger service rather than warlike actions.

The Whitehall Times
December 10, 1970

Portsmouth
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Portsmouth, N.H., is another claimant to the birthplace of the United States Navy. It claims the American Navy was born there with the launching of the RALEIGH, the first frigate to be delivered to Continental Congress during the Revolutionary War.

A frigate was a high speed, medium sized war vessel used in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. According to the Naval Documents of the Revolution, Continental Congress authorized the building of 13 such vessels on 18 December 1775 "to be fitted for the sea probably by the last of March next (1776)."

The Whitehall Times
December 17, 1970

Philadelphia
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Philadelphia, Pa., is still another place that claims the birthplace of the United States Navy.

By October, 1775, General Washington, the commander-in-chief, was painfully aware of the lack of artillery supplies. On 13 October Continental Congress ordered two ships to be outfitted to cruise along the shore -for three months to intercept enemy vessels that were laden with warlike stores and other supplies. These ships were purchased, outfitted, and were on active duty along the coast.

During November and December Congress authorized other vessels to be equipped for the same purpose. On 13 December Congress passed a law for 13 vessels to be constructed in seven of the colonies: Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maryland, Connecticut, and New Hampshire. One of these was RALEIGH on which New Hampshire bases her claim.

22 December Esek Hopkins was made commander-in-chief of these patrolling vessels and in February, 1776, sailed to the Bahamas where a fair sized supply of ammunition was known to be stored. He captured some of this. In early April he had returned and his ships became engaged with the British. He took three ships of the enemy and forced a large one to flee, in spite of the fact that many of his men were inactive because of -smallpox. His force bedeviled the British along the coast as Arnold's force in the summer of 1775 had kept them from Lake Champlain.

The Whitehall Times
July 20, 1972

Newport, R. I.
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

An interesting letter came from H.M.S. Rose — Seaport '76. This is a museum located in Newport, R. I. The letter says that H.M.S. Rose is a replica of the 20 gun British frigate which blockaded Newport in 1775. It was responsible for encouraging Congress to found the Continental Navy. It also states that it is the only Revolutionary Warship in existence. Two other items are included; that the Katy/Providence is considered the first vessel of the Continental Navy and the first vessel to land the Marine Corps. In a reply, which is requested, they shall be told of the original Philadelphia which is in Smithsonian Institution and the payroll that lists the Marines on the capture of Enterprise. These exchanges are interesting and friendly and keep alive Whitehall's claim. Perhaps in the near future our dream of reconstructed ships and/or shipyard will become a reality. Other places make dreams come true.

The Whitehall Times
July 13, 1972

The Naval Birthplace Case
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In the July Issue of YANKEE, a magazine dedicated to the affairs and people of the New England states, is an article "The Naval Birthplace Case" by Andrew Grey. Amusingly written from the standpoint of "New England's most unsolvable argument" and accompanied by cartoons the article plays up the struggle between Marblehead and Beverly in attempting to secure national sanction for its claim.

Mr. Grey has researched the vain attempts of each city to have it named as the birthplace. Back in 1935 the reply from the Secretary of the Navy was as evasive as it is now. In essence the Department of the Navy says that since each claimant played such an important role in our nation's history, one cannot be singled out for preference.

Other naval force places mentioned in the article as firsts are Machias, Maine, the States of Georgia, South Carolina, and Rhode Island. The closest Mr. Grey comes to Whitehall is that on 1 August 1775 by order of Major General Schuyler Commodore James Smith had the command of sloop ENTERPRISE at Crown Point, Lake Champlain, for the service of the United Colonies. He hadn't researched that LIBERTY was the first ship to be armed for war, that its marines and sailors captured that ENTERPRISE 18 May 1775 the first ship to strike its colors to the Americans.

The Whitehall Times
October 11, 1979

The Birthplace of the United States Navy
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Dick Beach to the contrary, Whitehall is the Birthplace of the United States Navy.

Those who didn't hear the early morning WGY Radio programs last week didn't hear Mr. Beach scoff at the idea of the United States Navy being created on inland Lake of Champlain

If anyone needs information for authenticating that fact, here is some ammunition.

1. Schooner LIBERTY, Loyalist Philip Skene's 40 ton trading vessel, was captured by New England forces May 9, 1775, for the purpose of taking Fort Ticonderoga.

2. On May 11, Captain John Sloan and Lieutenant Elezar Oswald with their recruits, took command of the ship and sailed it to Crown Point. These men were under Benedict Arnold's direct command, Arnold having been appointed by the Massachusetts Committee of Safety to capture Fort Ticonderoga and secure canons on the lake.

3. After arming the LIBERTY at Crown Point for a definite act of war. Arnold sent Captain Sloan and Lieutenant Oswald with: their sailors and marines on board to St. John in Canada against the British forces there.

4. On May 18, Arnold's surprise attack, the first amphibious landing of the marines, netted the 7 ton sloop ENTERPRISE, the frame work of the cutter LEE, smaller boats, and supplies. The ENTERPRISE was the first British ship captured by the Americans.

5. On May 18, Arnold drew up a crew list and payroll of the sloop ENTERPRISE, listing the sailors and marines and pre-dating their services to May 3, the date they were engaged preparatory to serving afloat. This payroll was recognized and paid by the Congress. The paper is in the National Archives

6. Both armed ships LIBERTY and ENTERPRISE did guard duty on Lake Champlain during the summer of 1775 and supported Richard Montgomery in the invasion of Canada that fall.

7. On June 14, 1775, Continental Congress formally adopted all men under arms at Cambridge, Massachusetts, at Ticonderoga and environs. The schooner LIBERTY AND SLOOP ENTERPRISE came out of Continental service into public and federal service. These actions were before the HANNAH sailed from Beverly, Mass., Sept. 5, 1775 to see direct action on Oct 10 1775, and the capture of the MARGARETTA taken by Machias, Maine men, June 12, 1775.

8. After George Washington was made commander in-chief of the army, he appointed General Philip Schuyler to be in command of the Northern Department of the Army. Under the latter was placed the building of the Lake Champlain fleet ordered by Congress.

9. During the summer of 1776 under the efforts of Cornelius Wynkoop, David Wynkoop, General Schuyler. Richard Varick and Jonathan Trumbull with hundreds of service men, a fleet of 17 ships were assembled, Row Galley GATES not being entirely completed. General Arnold was asked to be the commander of this fleet.

10. By Oct. 11, 15 of these ships were assembled at Valcour Bay there they met the British superior fleet in a draw, with one ship sunk and one burned at the shore. In running battle Oct. 12, after the Americans had slipped through the British line in the dark another ship was sunk and two beached. On Oct. 13 a ship was captured by the British and five were burned in Onion Creek to save falling into British hands. Four escaped to later join the other two not in the battle to fight again.

This naval action, the only fleet action in the Revolution with two schooners, one sloop, eight gundelos three row galleys and a cutter, saved the United States from invasion in 1776, giving the Americans time to prepare for the surrender of the British at Saratoga.

It is delightful to hear of the many Whitehallers who have sprung to the defense of Whitehall's claim to the Birthplace, whether in direct contact with the radio station or in indignant oral sessions with each other. Whitehall has a history to be proud of.

The Whitehall Times
January 6, 1983

Marblehead
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Marblehead is a young seacoast journal; a slick magazine that extols the beauty, life and industries of that town for which it is named. I appreciate a gift of a year's subscription beginning with Volume III Number 3 from its editor, Bill Purdin.

Why? Because in this issue is an article entitled "Whitehall, New York: The Birthplace of the American Navy?" by Dick Beach, a former resident of Marblehead. Dick often takes a swipe at Whitehall's naval history. He visited the village for about an hour this past summer, for an interview with this historian and the president of the Historical Society of Whitehall, a visit to Skenesborough Museum, and a brief look about town.

In spite of Dick's latest pronouncement of "laying forever" Whitehall's claim of being the Birthplace of the United States Navy, he really only repeated his main theme of how could a navy have been born on a fresh water lake. We are grateful for the splendid advertising he had given to Whitehall and Skenesborough Museum.

Diseases

The Whitehall Times

May 6, 1971

August 1849

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

1849 was a cholera year in Whitehall. The WHITEHALLER of 18 August 1849 gives the report of Health Officer Nelson Monroe. For the week ten new cases had occurred, making seventeen in all since the first appearance of the disease, seven of which were fatal.

Editorial comment said the cholera was due to the recent rains which took up all the pestilential vapors from the ketches and mud holes. The streets gave forth anything but a savory and healthful odor. Does this further comment sound familiar? There are strong laws but they need to be enforced. Some poor devil who throws a pail full of dirty water into the street or his backyard would be blown “sky-high” but the rich man could keep as many hogs as he wished and where he pleases and throw his “slops” anywhere he pleases without being disturbed. The law should see to the removal of the deleterious matter, so productive of disease.

Eight deaths were recorded in this week, six of them due to cholera. The ages of the deceased were between sixteen and sixty-six.

The Whitehall Independent

January 4, 1984

Contagious Diseases - 1894

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Board of Education on 2 October 1896 adopted a resolution that governed the admission of pupils after contagious diseases. No pupil was to be admitted until after the expiration of the period of infection as follows:

Diphtheria and membranous croup: From the beginning of throat symptoms until two weeks after the disappearance of the false membrane in the throat. Five weeks after the beginning.

Scarlet Fever: From the earliest manifestations of illness until after the disappearance of all scaling. At least six weeks from the beginning. (How many remember the stories of getting scarlet fever from the scales of an old trunk?)

Measles: From the beginning of the catarrhal stage until the cough has entirely disappeared. Time usually four weeks from beginning. (Did you ever catch measles from a pupil who went to a dance when he knew he had them?)

Whooping Cough: From the beginning of bronchial cough to the end of catarrhal symptoms. Time usually twelve weeks.

Chicken Pox From the appearance of eruption until the skin has entirely regained its normal appearance. Usually three weeks.

Mumps: From the outset of the fever to the end of the third week. (Did you ever get mumps from the pupil who sat in the front seat by your desk?)

Exposure to contagious diseases: Pupils in whose families are a case of a contagious disease and who have been exposed to the infection are to be excluded from school according to the following schedule:

Diphtheria: 3 weeks from time of exposure

Scarlet Fever: 10 days from time of exposure -

Measles: 15 days from time of exposure

Members of families where there are cases of whooping cough, chickenpox, or mumps need not be excluded from school unless they show symptoms of the APPROACH of the disease.

No pupils admitted unless in possession of a CERTIFICATE from a physician as per the above.

Per Order

Board of Education

The Whitehall Times **May 21, 1987**

Town Topics 1914 - 1915 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

In the last part of May 1914 Health Officer Guinan closed the churches, schools and places of amusement on a scare of scarlet fever epidemic. It was only a matter of precaution. The few cases were mild but all were alerted to clean out all kinds of rubbish and report any cases of illness. Schools were reopened on 3 June. Prior to reopening the school buildings were thoroughly fumigated and scrubbed and all pupils inspected. The three theaters were renovated and cleaned. As a result of the quarantine "Whitehall was as free from disease as most villages of its size."

The Whitehall Times
May 8, 1980

Influenza Care in 1918
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The 'flu' epidemic of 1918 still remains vivid in many people's minds. The late Mrs. Bertha Albee, wife of druggist Fred Albee, often talked of her experiences as a volunteer at the Armory in Whitehall.

As more and more men and women came down with the dread disease, nursing care became almost impossible in the homes and the Armory was set up as a hospital. Mrs. Albee became one of the night duty volunteers, staying all night with the sick ones, returning home in the morning exhausted but returning at evening to do what they could to relieve the suffering.

The drill shed was opened. Cots and mattresses were furnished and the room soon became an emergency hospital run in the same manner. The 54 windows gave light and the ventilators furnished fresh air. The rows of sick were tended by volunteers supervised by registered nurses and doctors, who were also in exhausted conditions.

Patients were carefully registered and graded as to the stage of the disease they were in and placed in the appropriate row of cots where they could be cared for. Hospital procedure was followed. As health was restored the adults were transferred to a large room for exercise and recreation and children where they could be entertained until ready to leave for home.

Few deaths occurred in the Armory a remarkable low rate of the number who received care for the dread disease. Not only were assistants in caring for the sick needed but many people on the outside were volunteers in preparing food, including the delicacies that convalescents needed.

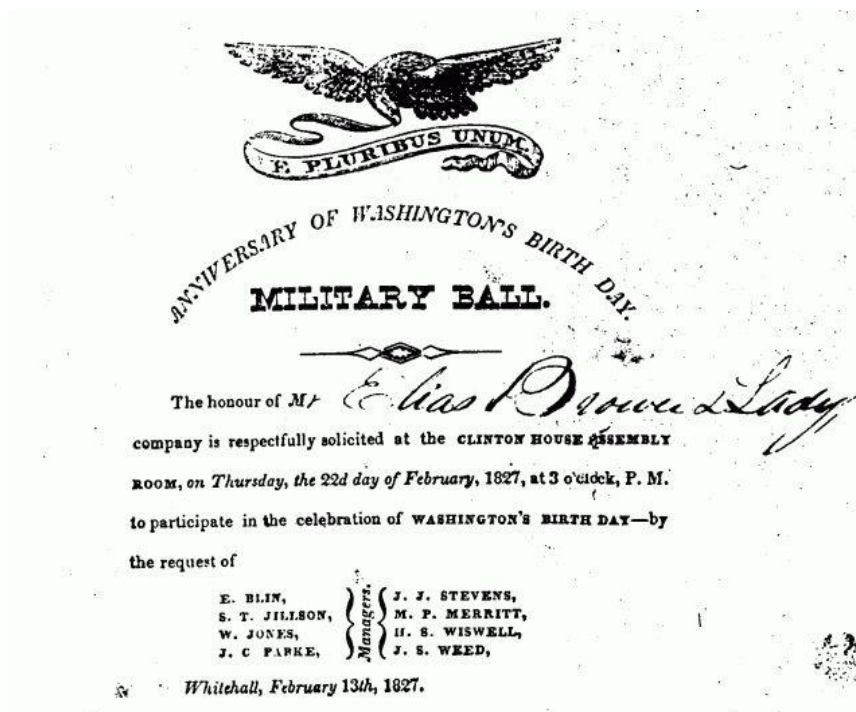
A newspaper account in The Whitehall Times reads, "The Armory has been a wonderful thing for Whitehall and today everyone realizes more than ever what would have happened had the town been without such a building. The Armory was 20 years old at this time.

Again the newspaper account commented: "Great credit was due to all who had anything to do with the hospital and friends and relatives of those who were treated appreciated the worth of the emergency hospital." Once again Whitehallers have responded to an emergency on an all-out basis.

Entertainment

The Whitehall Times
November 1, 1979

The Clinton House - 1827
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



I received this original invitation to a ball given at the Clinton House in 1827 from a Mrs. Virginia Davies, Montclair, N.J. From various sources some bits of the history of this outstanding institution can be given.

The hotel was located at Clinton and Canal streets, west of present Lock 12 on the site of the Polley Block that succeeded it. According to the introduction to the 1900 edition of "Life in Whitehall in Ship Fever Times" written by editors Inglee and Tefft, it was named for Governor DeWitt Clinton; He died in 1828. He had been a prime mover in the building of the Champlain and Erie canals.

From this invitation it is known the hotel was in business prior to 1827. From the Star Fire Company No.3 book we know it was purchased by John C. Parke in 1828 and run by him until 1832. He built a house and store adjoining the Clinton House and went into trade but later returned to the hotel. He was a proprietor of the Franklin House in Rutland in 1853 and later of the Parke House in Whitehall, later known as Hall's Hotel.

Warren Hitchcock, one of the founders of St. Paul's, later the Trinity Episcopal Church, kept the hotel from 1835 to 1843. Nothing else about the building is known until

its burning on 22 June 1849, reported by the Star Company. This fire took the wooden bridge over Wood Creek, two liquor stores, a dry goods store, and a drug store — “the whole of what is known as the Polley Block and all the opposite side of the street ranging up to and including the now Billett Store,” in the early flatiron section of Canal street before being named Broad.

VIP’s stopped at this evidently popular inn. In 1840 Vice President Van Buren with his son John took supper there. Traveling from Troy by stage coach he was met at Dyer’s near Fort Edward by a party of Whitehall Whigs on horse back. They escorted him to this village and after supper attended him across the bridge to the steamboat landing at the old stone store on the east side of the harbor; here he embarked on the steamboat Burlington for the north.

The same year Henry Clay was a passenger on the Burlington. It could be he also stopped at the Clinton House as the Burlington and the Whitehall on alternate days came from the north early in the morning and left for the north in the early evening.

Charles Dickens, the famed English novelist, was entertained at the Clinton House in 1842 on his tour of America. Perhaps he wrote his praise of the Burlington that evening before he left on the canal packet to the south. His descriptions of the steamboat and the canal packet to the south on which he rode are classics.

Perhaps an 1882 senior citizen’s recollection of a ball at the Clinton House can bear repeating: Such grand parties were held at these hotels. Why, the dances of today are but ghosts of the old Clinton House balls. In those days we did not save our sport until the best of the day. The carriages were in attendance at one o’clock and we danced until six when tea was served. Then came a little social time in the parlors, before dancing was resumed. At midnight came the grand supper. There was no standing up to eat either. Everybody sat down comfortable and enjoyed the good things before them. Did we dance any more? Of Course! The affair did not officially close until four in the morning. They lived plainer, worked harder, and as a general thing kept better homes, and so were ready for an occasional frolic if it was an all night one.

I wonder if your father and mother don’t remember one party in particular that came off at the Clinton House. I can’t remember the year but it was in Captain Alexander’s time. He was a recruiting officer here and rooms over Buel’s Hat Store {The Meeting Place). That building is still standing today. It was a grand military ball.”

The Whitehall Independent

January 15, 1986

A Dancing Party 149 Years Ago, 1837

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

One hundred years ago, as now, it was pleasing to find programs or notices of events that occurred in Whitehall years before. In 1886 dancing parties were held in the evenings. On the announcement of one, W. S. Eddy found a program for a party in 1837 stored away in his archives. The invitation was printed upon a small sheet of paper with a facsimile of an old fashioned dollar at its head. Could be the cut was emblematic of the

price of admission. The invitation read: The Managers respectfully solicit the company of MISS M GOODALE at J. Parkes' Washington Hall on the 22d of February 1837, at two o'clock P.M. Whitehall, February 10, 1837. (The name of the young lady was written in red ink Washington Hall was in the hotel that stood on Main Street that occupied the northern area of the street from the Bank at the corner of Saunders south. It had a variety of names over the years with the exchange of proprietors.)

The floor managers were H. T. Tisdale and A. Martin. This was followed by a list of managers, all, familiar names of men in early Whitehall history: J. B. Hicks, D. Barrett, M. Manville, S. R. Jillson, T. T. Vaughn, H. B. Kingsley, C. H. Barney, W. S. Eddy, all of whom must have been the young social crowd of the day when young people furnished their own entertainment.

The Whitehall Times September 3, 1987

Washington County News – May 1871 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In 1871 Whitehall's entertainment was obtained by the people's own efforts. The Musical Society met every two weeks in the homes of its members. The aim was that every member should be a performer, men and women alike. The Hawthorne Club was for ladies only. It met weekly in the homes of the members and heard each other read papers on such men as O. W. Holmes and other authors. The booksellers of the area reported that these meetings created a demand for the best of books. The Cornet Band held its offering once a week. The public was looking forward to the opening of the Reading Room of the Y.M.C.A. and the hope that a library would be established there.

This self entertainment extended to any parades the community had. The Decoration Parade was composed of townspeople. There was no hiring of out of town bands. Each unit of the parade was led by its own drum corps and band. The G.A.R. post members marched. The eight fire companies were out in force accompanied by the social organizations as they marched to Boardman Cemetery where the main ceremony of decorating the old soldier's graves was held with the main address. The other cemeteries were visited by smaller groups. Whitehall always came up with the best.

The Whitehall Times August 24, 1973

Washington County News - June 1872 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Without radio and TV what did people do for entertainment? Summer amusements listed were itinerant shows, hand organ grinders, medicine venders, gypsy horse jockeys,

rag pickers and bone gatherers. The last seem odd for entertainment but can't the "older generation" recall the almost indistinguishable call of the rag pickers and see their followers?

Anderson Hall was the place for formal gatherings. Mrs. Waughop came from Rutland to give readings from the popular authors. Maas and Hogle's Moral Enterprise brought artists from New York, Boston and Philadelphia for "first class entertainment."

The Whitehall Times **January 3 1974**

New Years Eve 1873 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

For New Year's Eve entertainment today we hear of balls and private home parties. Doubtless entertainment for guests does take the form of games but these gatherings don't make the newspapers as did this Phantom Party of New Year's Eve of 1873.

The Presbyterian Ladies Society advertised this Phantom Party to be given at Anderson Hall on New Year's Eve a week in advance, asking that ghosts, hobgoblins, spooks, bugaboos, Rochester knockers, ghouls, demadrosserbouerknas, gnomes, ogres and ogresses, and every other uncongenial and unsightly horrible spirit to attend for the small admittance of 25 cents. "No one can go in without paying although no obstacles will be placed in the way of those who wish to pay without going in."

It was reported afterwards as "one of the most successful entertainments of the season." Black spirits and white, blue spirits and gray walked arm in arm around the room. Captain Jack scuffed about and at 9 o'clock the door flew open and in came a procession of delegates from different nationalities: A huge Indian, swinging his blood-thirsty tomahawk and emitting wild whoops and demoniac yells; a peaceful Scottish chief; Bret Hart's "Heathen Chineese," childlike and bland; Japanese Tommy, chirp and talkative; Grand Vizier Turkey Gobleryum, strutting around; Hon. Pompey Snowball grinning and showing his teeth.

Four Knights of Malta were introduced as Sir, Knight De Lager Beer, Sir Knight De Gin Cocktail, Sir, Knight De Whiskey Skini and Sir Knight De Humpty Dumpty. The ghosts of the, dead Cardiff Giant strode, around on huge feet, scattering those who did not want to be stepped on.

At 10 o'clock "supper was called and, as in the story of Cinderella, a sudden change occurred. The deathlike faces disappeared as human ones were substituted. Many a face with whiskers, mistaken by some gentlemen who had carried on a flirtation, revealed themselves. Shouts of laughter greeted the transformations.

The evening entertainment ended at 11 o'clock with the ladies net profit at \$180.43.

After the Phantom Party dispersed, the members of the Parlor Entertainment Club and their friends adjourned to their parlors and enjoyed themselves in a social reunion that lasted until the "wee small hours."

This club was composed of young men of the village who leased the Vaughan House parlors to give social parties during the winter. Their first social had been given the preceding Monday 29 Dec. at which they and their friends had danced.

The Whitehall Times
June 28, 1973

Jumping - June 1873
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Jumping! This violent exercise is indulged to a great degree by men and boys on the banks of the canal every evening. It is an innocent pastime but rather jarring to the system.

The Whitehall Times
August 30, 1973

August 18, 1873
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

18 August, McAllister and Polley's Minstrels made their debut in Anderson Hall to an overflowing house in spite of the heavy downpour. Over 200 were turned away. Beginning in the winter months the Messrs. William McAllister and Hershall Polley were busy securing professional talent, getting their paraphernalia, and having cuts and printing done. One of the features of the troupe was the silver horns and drums, twelve in number were secured from Martin & Pollmann & Co. in New York. These cost \$2,000 and were exhibited in the show window of Baker .Patterson & Co's' store. These were only a part of their expenditure of over \$4,000.

Comedians and dancemen wee William McAllister, Goodman, Lowly and .Wayne. The Silver Cornet Band reflected credit on the whole troupe. The entertainment was of a superior order, nothing vulgar or obscene being allowed on the stage. The troupe went on to other towns and played to audiences in Albany 27 August, Hudson 28 August, Kingston 29 August, Rondout 30 August, Poughkeepsie 31 August, and Poughkeepsie 1 September, Fishkill Landing. 2 September, Newburgh 3 September. Reports sent back to the newspaper were extremely favorable.

The Whitehall Times
November 8, 1973

St. Mary's Fair – October 1873
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

St. Mary's Fair - Our citizens will bear in mind that the above fair is now being held in Anderson Hall. Many attractions are offered for this evening among which is some choice music by members Doring's Band. M. J. Tracy the champion "Jig" dancer will also favor the patrons of the fair to a rollicking jig.

The Whitehall Times
March 7 1974

From the Whitehall Times, February 1874
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

February, 1874, from the Whitehall Times.

Entertainment was frequent from 28 January through the month of February. The Parlor Entertainment Club held a Calico Party at the Vaughan House Parlors. Dancing was from 9 to 1 with O'Reilly's full band. The ladies were dressed in calico gowns (there was a description of each of the ladies dresses) and the men wore calico vests, neckties or shirts.

The next evening the Home Entertainment Club held a dance at Griswold's Hall. Fifty couples danced to O'Reilly's music.

On 4 Feb. Dio Lewis lectured at Anderson Hall on the topic "Our Girls" while the week before the lecture course was "Landmarks of Scott" by Wallace Bruce.

At the Y.M.C.A. lecture rooms, Col. A. H. Tanner talked on the 123d Regiment of the Civil War that was composed of men from Whitehall and vicinity. He gave amusing and sad reminiscences of the war days. The local Post John C. Corbett, G.A.R., occupied the stage: A week later the Y.M.C.A. lecture was given in Anderson with Flavious J. Cook of Boston, son of the noted W. H. Cook of Ticonderoga being the speaker.

The Independent Steamer Company and Niagara Hose company gave a dancing party 12 Feb. at Griswold Hall while the next evening the Lacca Hose Company gave a ball.

The Whitehall Times
December 28, 1972

Twixt Christmas & New Years 1875 - 1876
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Twixt Christmas and New Year's in Whitehall 1875—1876 social life was gay, often, educational and entertaining.

12/24. The ball of W. M. Cooke Engine Co. and Lacca Hose on Christmas was a grand success. There was a large attendance, the music was excellent, the supper by Gilds, superb, and the boys did everything in their power to make the event a success.

Christmas passed off very quickly. There was a festival, given at the new store near Queen Street by the Episcopal Church Society to the children of the Sabbath Schools. A Christmas tree was reared, luxuriant with beautiful presents at W. H. Tefft's in which the families of the Cooke family participated. At William Wood's another Christmas tree was raised. The families of William Wood, James Wood and Frank Fish participated. There were the usual services at the Catholic and Episcopal churches and the gathering of families around the festive board. Old Santa Claus put in an appearance the previous night at many homes adding to the delight of the little ones.

On Wednesday' 12/29 a race took place on the creek at Comstock's between "Butcher's Maid and Harrigan's mare for \$25 aside. Five heats were trotted the race being won by "Butcher's Maid."

Kilpatrick's lecture, that, evening at Hall's Opera House, was well attended. The subject, "Sherman's March to the Sea," was a very interesting one in the hands of the Major General, who commanded the cavalry forces of Sherman. Many of Whitehall's veterans were with Kilpatrick.

At a race 12/29 Chief Brett's "Billy Button" beat Hanibal Allan's "Senator Smith" for a purse of \$50. "Chief" Brett after the race was cheerful and happy.

The Sans Ceremonle Club held another of their delightful sociables at Hall's Opera House on Williams street 12/30.

At a meeting of the young people in this place at the residence of H. M. Allen 12/30, Thursday, evening a Literary Society was formed. The object of the society is for improvement and pleasure. Reading, singing and dramatic exercises will be held. The society will meet semi-monthly and the social evening will no doubt be enjoyable.

The hop given by the Feeley Hose, New Year's Eve at Griswold Hall was a very pleasant affair and was well patronized by the friends of Feeley Hose.

On New Year's Eve Postmaster Parke received his friends at his residence. The occasion was also the 43rd anniversary of his wedding day. 78 friends called on him and a delegation of Odd Fellows.

New Year's Day was quietly observed in our village. The old custom of making New Year's calls has gone out of fashion here.

The Whitehall Times
October 21, 1976

Whitehall in October 1876
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Hall's Opera House, at a cost of \$40,000, was holding entertainment with good crowds. On 30 September, special trains had run from surrounding towns bringing 1500 people into the village to hear the Thomas Concert.

On 6 October, Wilson's Globe Theatre played "Hamlet" on 11 October the Philharmonic Society of Boston gave a vocal and instrumental concert. This was followed 12 October with "East Lynne" and a farce "Loan of a Lover;" 13 October Lille Lonsdale presented "Leah, the Forsaken" and the next night Neil Warren gave "Richard, the Duke of Gloster." The Whitehall Cornet band played excellent music each evening.

On 18 October the original company of Callender's Georgia Minstrels performed. This was an election year so 27 October Senator Francis Kernan, an eloquent speaker discussed the issues of the campaign. Both the Whitehall Cornet band and St. Mary's band played. The balcony was reserved for the ladies.

In telling of entertainment, C. H. Holden, in his Local Sketches, reported that troupes of theatrical people when going with their entertainment from New York to Montreal used to stop off in Whitehall for a week's run.

The Whitehall Times
August 24, 1978

August 1878
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Entertainment 100 years ago took the form of outings that were generally picnics. Many were on the lake at spots reached by boats, both for organizations and individuals

Rev. Father McDonnell held church picnic at Warren's Grove in Hampton. The crowning event was a tug of war between Whitehall and Hampton. The latter won.

The Temperance Club filled three cars to go to Round Lake to hear the celebrated orator Murphy. The route took them to Saratoga and then north.

E. A. Martin guided the Sunday school of the Presbyterian Church and their parents by boat **Hooker** to Gurley's Cove in Putnam for their annual picnic.

Mrs. D. G. Percival held a private picnic at Pulpit Point. The guests were conveyed there on her own lighter.

Pliny Adams held a, private picnic for a large family gathering. This family held frequent get-togethers, especially at Thanksgiving and Christmas and the elder Adams birthday.

Young ladies held an egg rolling contest at a picnic on Wheeler Avenue. Most of them rolled the eggs without cracking them.

The Whitehall Independent
February 1 1984

The Hayseiders and the City Slickers (Unknown Date)
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A newspaper announced contests in baseball between two teams of “youngsters” born before 1889. The announcements gave dates of August 3 and 16 but not the year. Those who know these “youngsters” who took part will enjoy the list and perhaps be able to supply the year of occurrence.

The idea was to show the younger generation how the game of baseball was played in the “good old days.” A softball was used in deference to the “old ones.” The two teams represented the Country- born and the City-bred of the town. Supervisor E. D. Adams led the Hayseiders and Micky Rich and Duffy Generous, the City Slickers. The teams - went nightly to the Adams Field to practice although it was haying time for the country lads.

The roster of the farms listed Bill Burns, John McLaughlin, Ed McLaughlin, Jim Sullivan, Doc Carpenter, John Jones, George Doig, Norm Smith, Bill Noonan, John Whalen, Jacob Clark, Henry Harris, Eber Kinner, Fred Foote, Frank Ayers, Charlie Juckett, Rufe Norton, Ike Wood, Herb Bartholomew, George Ward, Charles E. Clark, Harry Dunbar, Charlie Adams, Walt Bartley, Dave Benjamin, and Merrill Harper.

Dave Generous and Micky Rich lined up a rare aggregation of city bred boys between the ages of 48 and 73 to take part in the summer’s greatest game. The City Slickers listed Claude Havens, Henry Neddo, Ned Shinnars, Ralph Rush, Jim Burdett, Ed McCarthy, Ben Bascom, Ed Ellsbury, Edmo Youtt, Olai Horton, John Saladin, Napoleon Barber, Pete Prefontaine, Joseph Ross, Otis Dennis, Bill Cody, Edgar Scott, Louis Valliere, Charlie Austin, Con Hurtubis, Puss Fontaine, Emery Scott, Israel LaFlower, Ike Minor, George Gordon, John Rodd, Delord Comeau, George Rich, Ed Shovah, John Day, Sr., Fred Beckwith, John Manell, and Boney Manell.

Just how many innings the game would last, no one dared predict but some show was predicted. The old timers of Hampton challenged the winners to play on their field day.

The headline of the account of the game said “Many fans disappointed when players give exhibition of baseball in place of comedy.” The Hayseiders downed the City Slickers 11 to 2 in the second game of the series. The first game had been a “carnival of mirth and errors.” Joseph LaChapelle, Sr., 98 years of age, strode up to the plate with a bat on his shoulder and knocked out the first ball. Merrill Harper cleaned the sacks with a triple into right field and Ward singled to score him with the seventh run of the inning. Jones and Harper turned in the fielding sensations of the evening. Rich and Day featured for the losers.

Neb Campbell put the story of the baseball teams in a poem which was sung by Micky Rich. It. will be printed next week.

The Whitehall Independent
February 8 1984

The Hayseiders and the City Slickers (Unknown Date)
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

After the second game between the Hayseiders and the City Slickers on August 23, Ned Campbell composed this piece and Mickie Rich sang it.

Mickie Rich has a baseball team.
They are dandy, they are fine.
They beat the young boys and young men
and did it very fine.
But when it comes to playing ball,
You take it from this bunch,
They got beat right and proper
When they met that old man bunch.

It was on August 23rd
That they played this mighty game.
Mickie wore a look of confidence.
Old Man Adams wore the same.
At last they stepped up to the plate,
the umpire took his place;
They hadn't time to hit the ball
When he hollered, "Take your base."
But when Mickie's nine came up to bat,
He put them up a spout,
One strike, Two strikes, Three strikes.
OUT.

High ball, low ball, straight ball or curve,
All looked alike to the umpire,
They couldn't jar his nerve.
The rooters yelled, "Take your base."
The umpire hollered, "Shut your face."
One strike, Two strikes, Three strikes.
OUT.

Old Bill Marnes of the Old Man team
Then gave the ball a swoop;
't broke the centerfielder's jaw,
Bounced in a chicken coop.
Around the bases Billie ren,
When loudly he did howl.

The umpire said, "It struck a hen;
I call that ball a fowl."

High ball, low ball, straight ball or curve
All looked alike to the umpire,
They couldn't jar his 'nerve.
The rooters yelled, "'Take your base."
'The umpire hollered, "Shut your face.'
One strike, Two strikes, Three strikes.
OUT.

The Whitehall Times
February 1, 1979

Walkathons, 1879
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The walking mania is nothing new. In 1879 men and women alike were contesting walks of 50 - miles for a purse of \$150, starting from the Opera House. Marie Vernon entered a contest with J. M. Massicott and won by three-fourths of a mile without a handicap in 12 hours. The following day she opposed Alex McNeely but after 37 miles she was prevailed upon to stop because of a sprained ankle. Miss Vernon's stride was 38 inches.

James Hancock vied with Seth McFarran, both in fine physical condition. Hancock won by two seconds.

The Whitehall Times
March 15, 1979

Entertainment in March, 1879
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

J. F. Clark was a musician. He had singing classes and directed concerts. One such took place on 13 March at the Hall's Opera House. Musicians of Whitehall took part. Their names were well known because of their musical accomplishments.

The Whitehall Cornet Band gave a one-half hour concert before the main event. The Aysalla Club sang excellently. Mrs. R. C Cooke sang "The Daughter of Error," accompanied by a chorus of 75 voices and an amateur orchestra. A grand selected chorus from the opera "Ernani" Was given. Miss Ogden executed several beautiful selections on the piano.

The names of some of the participants are familiar in early Whitehall history: Mrs. C. S. Hank, Mrs. J.H. Sullivan, Mr. and Mrs. A .C. Hopson, Misses Susie Baldwin, Kate

McNeely, Nellie Lacca, Frankie Wilson, Kathie Brazille, Miss Matthews, Emma and Minnie Renois, L. B. Clark, Messrs. H. B. and W. W. Skeels.

All this was for 25 cents admission for reserved seats and 15 cents in the parquette. The newspaper reported Mr. Clark did himself great credit in the whole successful affair.

Rev J. J. McDonnell delivered a lecture on "Daniel O'Connell," 11 March, at Our Lady of Angels. The lecture was a splendid production. A concert was given by members of the church.

On 19-20, a panorama of the Paris Exposition was given at the Opera House. The pictures; were "artistic and first class"

On .21 March the New Orleans Minstrels gave an entertainment at the Opera House. Several ladies gave performances on brass instruments. The entertainment was "chaste, modest, free from vulgarity or indecent performance of any kind"

Walking contests were still popular in Whitehall. (The Granville paper said it was be hoped the 'craze would stay in Whitehall). The Burleigh Corps Armory and the Opera House built tracks for men and women alike to use.

The Whitehall Times

April 19, 1979

Walking, Running?, April 1879

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Not being a sports enthusiast. I cannot tell the difference between those walking fast or running alone who are sportsmen as well as those who walk and run for an audience. Those doing it alone seem to be happy when people stop to watch or listen to the heavy breathing accompanying the sport.

Anyway, both exercises seem to be fads at certain times. A hundred years ago walking seemed to be the thing as people put up purses and paid entrance fees to see people walk indoors on tracks for hours or ran along the countryside to watch them there. I have written before of some of these contests but April, 1879, seemed to be a month for this sport. The Yonkers Gazette observed: 'Pedestrianism is epidemic. Even the youth on his way to Sunday school gets an attack of it and hastily passes by the church doors and some day in the future his teacher will read that he, like O'Leary, was taken from the track.

John Collins and A. C. Wilsey of Whitehall walked at Joslin's Hill in Poultney. The purse was \$20 and was won by Collins in two hours and 35 minutes, beating Wilsey by six laps on a 15 mile jaunt.

On March 29, Collins and Henry Brown of Fair haven walked at Peck's Hill, Fair Haven; ten miles for \$15. Being a fast walker, Collins won.

An enthusiastic crowd watched Collins and Janet Fox walk the next week. Fox had a lead with ten laps but Collins won in an hour and 33 minutes by a mile and 16 laps.

At the Opera House on March 28. Fannie May proposed to walk 100 miles in 27 hours. However, at the 23rd Fannie was taken with a chill and withdrew. William Kana of Brett Hose fame made 110 miles in 26 hours and was first. Master Eddie Francis a

nine-year-old walked ten miles in one and a half hours. The next day Eddie and Master Martin had a five mile test. Eddie won making five miles in one hour four minutes.

On March 28, Robert Hall, on the Burleigh Corps walking track in their armory, made five miles in 47 minutes 53 seconds; Henry Kana by walking and running made 12 miles in one hour and 59 minutes.

On April 9, John Sullivan of Whitehall planned to run in Fair Haven ten miles in hour and a quarter against two other men.

On May 2, John Sullivan planned to run at North Granville against Royal Briggs 25 miles for \$10.

No mention of any other sport was made in the April, 1879 paper.

By 1879 John H. Sullivan had erected the brick building on Canal Street on the site of the old hotel. In this 1879 year the Merchants bank manager moved the wooden building, formally used as the kitchen of the Hall House, south of this store and rented it to A. P. Carver who planned to use it as a grocery and Meat market. The Carver and Chapin storekeepers seemed to have moved around town with their businesses as did R. Witherbee.

The Whitehall Times October 18, 1879

September 1879 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Miss Emma Ogden obtained admission to the Cooper Institute of Art in New York City and her friends wished to aid her financially. Accordingly; they gave her a complimentary concert at the Opera.House-Sept.-16:

The program was excellent. The singing of Miss Arrie Broughton being applauded and the lady encored. Misses Buel and Bowen sang sweetly, the former sustaining her place as a favorite with Whitehall people, while the latter won many friends. Mrs. C. Colliris and Mrs. R. C. Cooke also added much to the enjoyment of the evening; Messrs. L. H. Cook and J. F. Clark were among the male singers and they sang with their usual ability; Miss Ogden and Miss Belden performed pieces on the piano to the delight of those present. While Master Tefft did himself proud in the song of "Good Night Beloved." The amateur orchestra performed well. The affair was well attended and, we hope that the lady will realize a substantial profit.

These names of musicians are well known to the musical programs in the news of the latter part of the 19th century. It seems Whitehall has always had people of great musical ability.

The Whitehall Independent
November 16, 1983

October 1883
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

W. B. Eddy received the prize toilet set given as a result of his guessing the number of beans in a glass preserve jar at the Burleigh Corps Fair and Festival 9 - 12 October. His guess was 1392 beans in the jar, the exact number being 1391.

The Whitehall Times
February 21, 1985

Business Men's Carnival Program, 1884?
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Who of today would be entertained with a program such as was put on by St. Mary's Guild of Trinity Church, 8-10 May 1884? The 66 business and professional citizens were portrayed by young ladies of the village on stage.

With the list businesses of the time are listed names of citizens that some will remember to relate to family names.

C. B. Broughton's Pharmacy - Lizzie with banner of cut flowers; H. J. Earle's Shoe Store - Bertha Phillips in black and white; W. C. Griswold's News Room - Marjorie Souter with red sash; George D. Cull Grocer - Maude Bates with white and blue headdress.

R. M. Eitherbee, clothing - Louise Lillie in boy's hat and coat; H. B. Martin, Grocer - Alice Orr trimmed with crackers and cake; Buckley & Harrigan, Meats - in red and yellow; R. A. Hall, Red Slate - Hermione Douglass with slate tiles; L. H. & H. K. Sheldon's Creamery - Grace Corbett carrying a milk pail; Charles Emerson - Miriam Baldwin carrying a boomerang gun.

Drs. Wisely & David, Dentists - Sarah Griswold with dentist tools; J. H. Sullivan, Grocer - Marion Holcomb trimmed with groceries with a bouquet of brushes; Harding, Bascom & Co. - Georgie Newcomb and Leon Foote, a boy and girl dressed in gents full evening dress with belled crown hats; C. C. Adams, Photographer - Etta Martin trimmed with photographs; Frank Ryon, Coal - Edith Culver with four little ones; H. G. Burleigh & Bros., Lumber - Lena Manville who strode onto the stage affecting the mannerisms of Mr. Burleigh; Corbett & Co., Druggists - Clara Bascom trimmed with druggist's sundries.

J. L. Billett & Co. Milliners Bernice Livingston and Grace Nichols in blue; M. Oppenheim, Jeweler - Rebecca Lietzky decorated with jewelry; E. P. Newcomb Transportation, L.C.T. - Nellie Smith girdled with rope; E. Comey blacksmith - Mrs. E. J. Balwin with black leather apron decorated with horseshoes; Merchants National Bank - Mrs. Oliver festooned with gold pieces and greenbacks in large denominations; L. W.

Skeels, Meat Market-Kate Briggs with a basket of juicy meat; Mrs. H. E. Griswold, Milliner-May Combs and Lizzie Weeks representing old and young.

S. A. Conery, Fruit - Marion Broughton, a sweet little girl; Blodgett & Hendrick, Grocers - Rose Douglass draped with ropes of dried apples; Sidney Souter, Gents Haberdashery - Cora Dufresne with fedora and a grip; Champlain Silk Mills - Flora Wood in white silk from head to toe; Finch Bros. Dairy - Mable Benjamin with a clear song; W. H. Tefft, Chronicle. - Alma Waters dressed in boy's suit; Wood & Hotchkiss. Hardware - a cute little miss; W. B - Travis, Hardware - Sadie Walker trimmed with cutlery; William Frazier, Livery - four little boys and girls harnessed with ribbons and there are more.

The Whitehall Times **February 28, 1985**

Business Men's Carnival, 1884 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

More of the entertainers of the Business Men's Carnival were: Grace Demerest, a pupil of Prof. Chante, played a banjo solo; Edit Culver and Lawrence Tefft gave a pantomime of Dr. B. R. Holcomb working on a patient; Emily Phillips, trimmed with Pike's jewelry, sang to an encore; Grace Carpenter represented W. F. Bascom, Insurance; Mabel Farrington and Addle Emerson, cute little misses represented M. H. McFarran, Grocer; Annie O'Neil had decorations from J. H. Matthews drug store; Nellie, with photographs for trimmings called attention to Georgie Newcomb looking out from a heavy gilt frame for H. G. Brown, Photographer.

Carrie Dill and Kate Briggs represented J. T. Finnican's Fruit Store and Dr. N. E. Foote. Dentist. Carrie carried a dish of fruit and bonbons which she threw to the audience; Bessie Buel was decorated with packages of seeds for G. H. Ingalls, Grocer Pauline Watkins (Hughes) for the Whitehall Steam Laundry was decorated with collars and cuffs; Bernice Livingston (Clute) was decorated with incandescent globes from Whitehall Electric Light; Maude Rich wore a costume of wall paper from Stafford Brothers, Painters and Paper Hangers.

Lena Jillson represented W. T. Sinnott, Est. Grocers; Annie and Alice Lillie and Mildred Dalton were three little maids from E. A. Greenough, Pianos; Jessie Perry carried a banner for Doren and Edmunds, Architects; Dora Walker had a costume bespangled with express checks from National Express Company; Lizzie Hardy had a fly blanket draped over her shoulder with a chime of bells and a whip; Mattie Pittinger with a satin dress with over drape and lace extolled the virtues of Douglas & Martin's Livery.

Edith Culver dressed as a shopper went marketing for H. H. Skeels. Meat; Stella Carrington was beautifully dressed and wore shoes and slippers for L. H. Carrington; The Commercial and Hall houses were represented by a quartet of Mrs. N. E. Foote, Misses Maine Watson, Julia Bascom and Bertha Phillips. They gave a pantomime of waiting for a train; Jennie Jones and Gasper Duso in hayseed costumes sang the praise of the Whitehall Times; Nellie Pecor was trimmed with gold horseshoes for Benjamin

Beckwith, Blacksmith; Lulu Dale for E. .P. Manville Druggist carried a syringe filled with cologne and sprayed it on the audience in the grand march.

Kittie Burdett made a pretty milk maid in red for S. W. Perry, Dairy; H. E. Sullivan dressed in costume for Whitehall Coal Company; a quadrille was performed for the Blakeslee Emporium; the law firms of Potter & Lillie and O. K. Dennis were represented with a tableaux of "Justice"; The firm of Wood & Hotchkiss had a house in miniature near the stage showing plumbing as it should be.

Individual initiative, imagination, and labor certainly put on a show that was probably remembered for a long time.

The Whitehall Independent December 12, 1884

Summer Months 1884 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A popular festivity was a picnic and organizations attended them. Members of the Layet Club enjoyed a picnic in E. P. Wood's grove. George Griswold rigged a wagon to carry the young people. Franke Griswold was in charge. Franke seemed to have been an active young woman in community affairs.

The Whitehall Independent December 19, 1884

Christmas Time 1884 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The annual ball of the Doren Hose Co. was held 24 December at Hall's Opera House with Pecor's full orchestra

At Griswold Hail (Iron. Front) the Lacca Hose Co. held its annual ball 24 December with supper at the Grand Union Hotel.

The French Church Fair began 26 December at Griswold's Hall.

The Whitehall Independent July 3, 1886

St John's Day, 1885 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

An earlier celebration was held on 2 June 1885 by the French Canadian citizens in observance of St. John's Day. Residences were decorated with the tri-colors. Trains

brought in visitors from the east in the morning and from the south in the afternoon. They were met at the depot and the visitors were escorted to the rooms of the St. John Society.

The church and its altar of Notre Dame were decorated with American and French flags and flowers. The inscriptions in the sanctuary were: Societe St. Joseph, Sandy Hill, Soyons Renis; Societe St. John Baptiste, de Glens Falls; Concorge Salut; Gratitude a nos musicians; Notre foi et notre langue - Rutland and Vergennes.

The French Band of Glens Falls played national music. The patriotic sermon was, preached by Rev. L. T. Adam, formerly of Whitehall but then of Hochelega, Montreal. After Mass a parade was headed by Grand, Marshal Colonel Antoine Renois, It contained the visiting societies and the Whitehall host societies, Sunday school children, the French Band of Glens Falls, the fire companies and Burleigh Corps of Whitehall. A carriage carried young John LaCasse representing St. John Baptist; Alex St. Hilaire representing Jacques Cattier, and Arthur Trombley representing an Indian.

Dinner was served at the picnic grounds and the evening exercises were speeches, solos and instrumental music. Rev. Father Ethier was the local host.

The Whitehall Independent February 19, 1886

1886

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Whitehall was a musical community, both instrumental and vocal, years ago. Professor Hudson organized a Choral Union to cultivate the vocal powers of the village. A class met every Thursday in the rooms of Steamer No. 3 over the Merchants Bank (It's only in this type of item that location of lodge rooms, etc. are discovered). All were invited. A gentleman offered to pay for the minor expenses. The pupils paid the Professor a small fee. At the conclusion of the series a public entertainment was promised and people could expect a good concert. There are further results from this Union.

The Whitehall Times July 24, 1886

1886

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

On 2 July people went to Rutland to see a footrace that lasted eleven and a half seconds. It was a footrace of 100 yards between two favorites, Frank Robetor of Whitehall and Mr. Cohen of Rutland. Money changed hands for the exciting and enthusiastic occasion. At first Cohen was ahead for about half of the race. Then Robetor pulled ahead and won in a very short distance. The track was rough and not in good condition. The race was finished in front of the grandstand of the Fair Grounds with

Judge Frazer from Whitehall, Bannon from Rutland, and Waterman from Burlington. Robetor, employed at the Times Office, was met at the depot by a crowd of admirers.

The Whitehall Times
August 14, 1986

Whitehall in 1886
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Whitehalls seemed to like parades - they still do. In the mid 1880's there were two Harvest Home Festivals activated by the Episcopal Church. The second one was in September. The Village was a field of vegetables products brought in by wagon loads. On the day the railroad train brought in hundreds of visitors for the day and evening. A main feature was the mammoth parade that extended in length from Brett's store (Barber's) on Canal Street to O. Davis house that stood at the corner of Williams and Poultney at that time. It went the usual route up what was called Main Street, later Broadway, and across the bridge to Williams.

Modern floats usually follow a theme that can be judged on originality and attractiveness. One hundred years ago the emphasis seemed to be products and industries. Can, you imagine what floats would look like today if they were constructed on lines like this one?

The lumber dealers of Manville, Miner and Williamson built a Queen Ann Cottage. The Hatch Hill red slate industry under Robert Hall had five men working a steam mitt. P.S. Benjamin had a crate of calves. There was a cage of dogs and monkeys exhibited by C. G. Donehue. Mrs. Edward was busy working her spinning wheel. Allen's Cheese Factory was shown in a wagon of cheese samples. Burdett's Bakery had a wagon from which a woman scattered crackers to the crowd. A wagon of Gypsies' held them by a campfire. C. B. Bates showed a pyramid of groceries but without his famous brilliant cat. A load of hunters held also their guns and dogs. A tailor shop was in full operation. The Terry House had a carriage full of guests. Jerry Adams had a load of bricks and Vannier and Allen two ice carts.

Trinity church, where the evening program was held, was decorated with fruits of the harvest. Residents and stores were decorated. The affair ended with a display of fireworks

The Whitehall Times
August 28, 1986

Whitehall in 1886
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Church ladies of the village tried to get up unusual entertainment that would be entertaining and unique. Recently the Farmer's Festival was described as a gala that was developed by the Trinity Church Ladies. In October the Presbyterian Ladies produced the idea of a Loan and Art Exhibition, a rather novel entertainment and one that would be interesting. First they advertised for items that were elegant, curious and unique. Promising that each would be handled carefully and returned unharmed. Especially desired were Revolutionary objects, old and modern art, and antiques. After the event that took place in Griswold's Hall, the event was declared most successful church festival.

There were two hundred year old oil paintings, Bibles 250 years old, a candle stick that George Washington used, brick-a-brac from many countries, laces, an old timeworn chair, a Japanese wedding display, gorgeous attired high dignitaries, richly clad damsels, 81 year old newspapers, a collection of rare coins, statuettes, Dakota buffalo horn chair, clocks rare and antique china, jewelry, and ivory products During the display period there was entertainment and refreshments, a full evening of amusement.

Another entertainment was a picnic to Death Rock by twenty ladies in October. They had the advantage of a rare treat of scenery from the rock and the fall foliage. In the 1920's and 30's a Sunday afternoon stroll was on a favorite jaunt to Death Rock. One Group was not too amused to find on the kitchen floor one Monday morning a green snake that had evidently ridden home on a bundle of branches the afternoon before

The Whitehall Times
October 28, 1982

Harvest Home Festival 1886
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Today when a parade is planned those concerned hope there will be floats from organizations, businesses and individuals. Quite often the labor and time to be spent in production seem to be too great in the fast pace that citizens live. Perhaps the participants in Whitehall's Festival "83" next year will be inspired from this account of the floats and decorations of the Second Annual Harvest Home Festival in 1886, 11 September.

This impromptu first such festival in 1885 was surpassed in the second one in 1886 that drew a stream of wagons and carriages to the streets and many people who came in on the trains.

Homes, business houses and public buildings were decorated with flowers, fruit, vegetables, corn and grain. The arrangements extended along Canal (now Broadway and Main streets) and Broad Street (North Main) from the railroad station to the steamboat

landing of the New York and Lake Champlain Transportation Company, and along Williams Street from Mud Creek to the lower bridge. Those buildings with porches and pillars were high spots.

The list of participants in the festival with its parade is an inventory of the outstanding businesses and the prominent men and women in the community of the 1880's. The details of the festival are interesting.

John Brett, whose grain and grocery store was the present American Legion hall, placed banners across the street, the center on reading "Welcome to the Harvest Home Festival, Success to the Farmers." At the other end of Canal Street (Main) at 9 Broad Street was John Davey's Saloon and dining room- He had an evergreen arch across the street proclaiming "Welcome." The front of his store was decorated with evergreens and vegetables. Nearby was J. Phil Graulich's Merchant Taylor Store festooned with vines, flowers and evergreens. Vegetables were arranged on wire frames.

The parade contained colorful units. It was led by eight bicyclists from Fair Haven, Castleton, Poultney and Rutland, under the direction of John Corbett, a clerk, one suspects from Lawrence Corbett's drug store.

The mounted marshals followed: W. A. Hall, a slate manufacturer; R.R. Davis, a lawyer; O.K. Manville, a druggist. Then came the Ballston Cornet Band of 16 pieces playing almost non-stop music.

Walkers in a brigade of 24 young misses in white. Kate Briggs had trained them to march in a square, a triangle and in a form to represent each letter of HARVEST.

The Harvest Chariot was a "horn of plenty" with Miss Bessie Buel, a vocalist and later village librarian, as Queen of the Harvest. Goddesses accompanied her on the float, daughters of village notables: Gertrude Manville, Goddess of Grain; Effie Brett, Goddess of Vegetables; Mattie Woodward, Goddess of Flowers; Gertrude Burdett, Goddess of Grapes, dressed as Italy, home of the grape. The Chariot was drawn by three oxen gaily decorated with ribbons.

Alex Williamson of the sash, door and blind factory near the railroad station collaborated with the partnership of Miner and Manville on a miniature Queen Anne cottage. The small building was constructed of 15 different kinds of wood with doors and windows in which there were tiles and with an overlapping roof.

The descriptions will continue.

The Whitehall Times
November 4, 1982

Second Annual Harvest Festival 1886
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Interspersed among the exhibits of garden and field produce were displays of the business men of the town who took this opportunity to show their wares.

The Allen Cheese Factory was represented by a wagon decorated with evergreens on which were displayed cheese boxes that held their wares. Burdett's Bakery wagon was

the source of cookies and crackers tossed out by a lively worker. Captain Collins was in command of a representation of the state boat and full crew. His daughter Jessie was the Goddess of Liberty, grasping the standard of the Stars and Stripes. William Malan drove the eight in hand, the boat being decorated with evergreens and golden rod.

Wood and Hotchkiss had one of the most elaborate floats in the parade. A large platform containing the different departments of their store, which at this time was just north of Saunders Street on Canal Street. The roof was decorated with tin from their tinning department. The gable ends had goods from their shelf hardware department. The interior was carpeted and furnished from their carpet and furniture department. There were stoves and kitchen utensils among which the proprietors sat with their clerk, T.A. Paterson.

The Whitehall Lumber Company Limited's structure showed lattice work, panel work, ceilings and moldings. The whole was surmounted by their saws. H.A. Griswold displayed his silver and jewelry in a structure from which issued the music of a hand organ.

The Whitehall Mill Company, the grist mill, was represented by young men and women whose faces and clothing were streaked with flour. L.F. Miller rode in a bus drawn by four horses and driven by William Hammond. There were shown bear skins, wolf and buffalo robes, carriage and harness trimmings, and rubber goods. A huge shoe and a side-bar carriage was attached to the rear.

J.R. Broughton & Sons, the druggist, entered with their representation of mixed paints, phosphates and soda fountain drinks in which they specialized. Town Collector Robert Irwin showed his machinery used in the construction of his patent fence in actual operation.

Carmel of the "Reliable" had a structure representing a section of the "Iron Front" in which his business was carried on. Figures arranged around the base of the building showed his "reliable" suits.

On a large platform W. W. Cooke's showed in miniature a section of one of their readymade houses. In front and rear were dwarf pines intending to represent the yard and grounds around the building. The sides were left open; the border around the platform showed the fine work of the mill in its moldings. Following was the large shoe of Earl's Boots and Shoes and Caps and Hats Shop.

A marked feature of the parade was that of New York and Lake Champlain Transportation Company in a model canal boat drawn by eight mules. Drivers were mounted on three leading mules. Doren's furniture and undertaking establishment was demonstrated with two horses decorated with black trimmings attached to a structure. at the four corners of which was a full length mirror. Inside it were examples of his furniture.

RM. Witherbee showed goods from the various departments of his store, barrel heads of Pillsbury's flour, clothing, rubber goods. Harding and Bascom showed fine carpets and samples of clothing. A feature of their float was Kate Shay at a sewing machine and Maloney and Allen on tailor benches sewing very industriously. C. B. Bates had a shelf arrangement of his canned goods and dry groceries. Jerry Adams showed up with a load of bricks from his yard. R. A. Hall had a steam drill from his Hatch Hill slate quarry on a wagon operated by five of his men. It was followed by 17

quarry men on foot showing their red slate quarry implements. Behind them was a team hauling sacks of E. W. Hall's red paint and his phosphate fertilizing preparation.

This article contains so many details of the businesses of Whitehall in the late 19th century that it will be continued in the next issue.

The Whitehall Times **November 11, 1982**

Festival 1886 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

R. A. Chapin was in the Festival 1886 procession with a representation of his paper hangings and wall and ceiling decorations. The Chapin Block was on the south corner of Division and Canal Streets.

Brown the photographer was around taking pictures (It would be nice if we had copies.)

The Donehue cage containing some of his pet animals with the keeper was in the parade. The cage was so high it was unable to pass through the upper bridge and dropped out to join the procession when it returned to the West Side (which Donehue and what were the animals?)

Mr. Frank Fish entered with his matched team of grays, the harness trimmed with vegetables and sun flowers.

Rogers the rag peddler was there with his tin ware wagon as were Vannier and Allen's ice cart.

Farmers were proud of their largest examples of produce. George F. Johnson had in his farm wagon a 74 pound squash and a mammoth beet. Mrs. J. B. Johnson worked an old fashioned spinning wheel spinning flax. P. S. Benjamin had a calf pen on wheels with live animals ready for market.

Mr. F. Foote with his neighbor, Coats, were seated among their vegetable garden products. Mr. Nichols followed with his hay tedder decorated. William B. Washburne of Hatch Hill followed him with a gaily decked wagon with Miss Falkenburg seated at an old fashioned spinning machine.

Mr. Edward Adams of West Haven, Vermont, and Mrs. Adams. She had rolls of wool and was showing how women used to spin wool.

Mr. B. F. Douglass' group of young misses representing haymakers and bearing the implements of haying and harvesting, not omitting the emblematic of the way the haymakers refreshed themselves in the heat.

A gypsy camp wagon was driven by John Reilley. There was a large camp kettle suspended from a frame of sticks.

The "Deacon's One Horse Shay" was illustrated with a young couple calling themselves Ananias Green and his wife. The wagon was said to be 100 years old and was the property of the late (1886) James D. Hancock, an early industrialist of Whitehall.

“Pinkie” McCarty had the Terry House (New Arlington Hotel) carriage in the line with a party of guests and made a good showing for his house.
To be concluded.

The Whitehall Times
November 18, 1982

Harvest Home Festival 1886
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The end of the festival parade featured animals. T.G. Hunt shows the famous stallion “Beechman” with four colts; John Clark his imported Canadian stallion. A dog cart with dogs was the last of the vehicles.

The parade route was from Brett’s Store (American Legion) along Canal street, (now Broadway), over the New Road, along Williams Street and along Church Street to disband at the Episcopal Rectory. When the first of the parade was entering Williams Street, the last vehicle was just leaving Brett’s Store.

A platform had been erected on the rectory grounds from which the Rev. McMillan, the former rector, Dr. Van Rensselaer, and the immediate predecessor, Rev. James H. Hall, addressed the crowd, followed by the editor.

A school teacher, Miss. Hendricks, directed some school children in a farmer’s song, accompanied with appropriate gestures.

Evening services were held in the church that was decorated with products of the fall festival. There was a five foot cross made of straw and one made of red geraniums. Around the church were bunches of flowers and vegetables; over the entrance door was a collection of farm tools. A paper border extended the church, bearing the text “Honor the Lord with the first fruits of they increase, so shall thy barns be filled with plenty and thy presses burst out with new wine.”

After the service there was an exhibition of fireworks. The grounds were lighted with Chinese lanterns; rockets and Roman candles were set off. To add to the excitement a meteor crossed the western horizon.

The band played “Home Sweet Home” and ended the second Harvest Home Festival — a great success and well worth all the hard work and ingenuity that went into it.

The Whitehall Times
January 6, 1977

Gilbert and Sullivan in Whitehall in the 1890’s
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Once I heard a man of Whitehall declare flatly there was no musical talent in Whitehall. If he had ever read accounts of musical performances, including Gilbert and

Sullivan or could have foreseen the dramas presented by Milton Chellis, he would have negated his assumption.

In the 1890's Whitehall's Music Hall over the Williams Insurance Block and the Butcher Block, was the scene of three successful Gilbert and Sullivan presentations. In October 1892, a group of local citizens determined to give a benefit for the Railroad Y.M.C.A. The presentation of **The Mikado** for this purpose became "by all odds the finest entertainment ever given in Whitehall." This was entirely a local effort under the direction of Hermon E. Sullivan, a 26-year old musician:

Mr. Sullivan rented the professional stage manager's book from Arthur Tam's Musical Library in New York City, assigned carefully the 13 talented people for the main parts, and interested others for the chorus, in all over 50 people. Like the recent dramatic club organization, members and friends of the cast made stage settings and costumes exact in every detail, even to the sandals. Everything was authentic Japanese — costumes, fans, umbrellas.

The ten pieces of the 9th Separate Band orchestra in charge of Professor Leon Chantz was under the baton of Professor W.W. Howe with Miss Mina Belden at the piano. The men dressed in full dress suits.

Tickets for both nights of 8 and 9 December 1892 sold rapidly at C. R. Broughton's drug store for 35 cents. Even with additional seats in the aisles, both nights were standing room only.

Both Whitehall newspapers were extravagant in their praises of the entertainment as a whole. The leading role holders were lauded separately. The story of the comedy was given so that the audience could better follow the action. Added attractions were a fan drill and several tableaux.

A dress rehearsal of the comedy was given 2 January 1893 before 50 guests of young people home for vacations and visitors in town. Following a petition asking for a repeat performance, it was given again 2 and 3 February 1893, Thursday and Friday, under the auspices of the R.R.Y.M.C.A. with the same success as in December.

On 7 February the company went to Ticonderoga by special train, had dinner at the Burleigh House and performed at Ives Opera House. On 9 February the company played to a crowded house at Knight's Hall in Fair Haven for the benefit of St. Luke's Episcopal Church who gave them a dinner. They returned in a special car on the Schenectady Freight.

The performance was also given in Mechanicville. The troupe, relatives and friends met at the R.R.Y.M.C.A., walked to the depot for a special car, generously donated by the D & H both ways in consideration that the performance there be given for the association of that place. Men in the company all wore top hats and "appeared gentlemanly and dignified." Supper was served at the association's rooms.

As a windup of the season the ladies of the R.R. Y.M.C.A. auxiliary gave the members of the Mikado Opera Company a reception and banquet at the rooms. After a collation of oysters, cold meats, biscuits and ice cream, many members of the community gave toasts and remarks that alluded to the comedy and its performers. The evening ended in music and conversation.

This completed the performance of the first Gilbert and Sullivan presentations which was a financial success, in the 1890's. Two others were to follow.

The Whitehall Times
July 15, 1982

Entertainment in 1892
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In another interview in 1882 with I the “little old lady under the hill” (Skene Mountain) by Mrs. Charles H. Bailey is a description of a military ball on a cold freezing January — “the cold snap and winter storms of today were nothing to what we used to have.” From details given in the article the time was in 1833-1835.

A military ball was given in honor of Captain Alexander by invitation three weeks before the affair. Each lady tried to have a more elegant costume than the other. With time to prepare, dresses were created with tucks, ruffles and puffs that made up a party dress the young ladies wore while the married ones dressed in satin and silk. The matron, however young, sported the caps which were all the rage at the time. Electa Goodrich was the fashion milliner at the time. She was extremely busy in making dainty headdresses of lace and ribbons for the ball.

The dresses were low in the neck, though some wore capes. Long sleeves were in Bishop or mutton leg, and belts were fastened in front with broad buckles. Skirts were scanty, usually plain and short. Everyone wore slippers for dancing. Gentlemen used silk handkerchiefs while the ladies used only linen.

Merrily the guests danced the cotillion and contra-lance to the skilled musicians’ rendering of “Perry’s Victory,” “Money Mush,” “Beauty’s of America,” “Bonaparte Crossing the Alps,” “Fishers’ Hornpipe,” “Irish Washerwoman,” “St. Patrick’s Day,” and “Life Let Us Cherish.”

At midnight a good supper was served after which the guests danced until dawn. Then all bundled into sleighs and carried home to reminisce for days about Captain Alexander’s military ball.

The outstanding guests were listed only by first names. Sophia S had the honor of opening the military ball with Captain Alexander. She displeased the other girls because she was conceited with the honor. The K--sisters were Eliza and Susan, sweet girls both. Betsy B had a lovely face; Jane M was fair and gentle. Colonel B and wife, Lieutenant Colonel J and General B (Barrett) of Dresden fame were there. Dr. P, about the largest man in all New York State, was a light and graceful dancer.

Another winter pleasure of the times was the sleigh rides north to Chapman’s Point. Planned unexpectedly within an hour on moonlit nights the revelers would start about 6 p.m. in a long sleigh drawn by horses. Their voices raised in song accompanied by the jingle of the sleigh bells. Reaching “Uncle Ed’s” they regaled themselves around a fire with mince pies and doughnuts and heated apples and cider. Between 10 and 11 they were home again for they were working people.

Once a year there was a grand party at Sudbury, Vt. The host kept a tavern for entertaining dancing parties in the winter and farmed during the summer.

A description of the village in that period of time followed which will appear later.

The Whitehall Times
December, 1982

December, 1892

Editor note: 1882? See "County Government" for this date

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The celebrated fair and festival of the ladies of the Presbyterian Church was held 12-13 December at Hall's Opera House with many booths and tables. The main feature was the Broom Drill of 24 young ladies in, perfect form. The Independent Steamer No. 3 held its annual ball, on 8 December. It was greatly, enjoyed. Father. Adams held the. French Fair in Griswold's Hall.

The Whitehall Times
May 19, 1983

A Jig Dancing Match, March 1894

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Although scrapbook material is generally obituaries and marriages, there are often bits of other information that is informative and interesting. This account fits the latter.

Dr. Holcomb had a barn behind his residence on Canal Street. Here the boys of the Commercial House Baseball Club spent their Saturday morning laying plans to conquer the Fair Haven team and others they expected to "do" the coming summer. John Scott and Walt Watson were present as usual this March 1894 morning, disposing of Tutti Fruitti and cigarettes. Scotty was whistling and keeping time with his feet, a sand jig on the barn floor. Babe Rich, a new member of the team, said "You like to dance don't you? I can dance longer than you can," spoke up the "Major", as Walt was called. Scotty replied "Bet you a quarter and the money went down.

At 9:30 that Saturday morning the longest dancing match that ever occurred in Whitehall was on until 1:30 that afternoon. The Major had nothing but cigarettes and water while Scotty consumed water and chewing gum flavored with wintergreen. Both boys kept their admirers busy chasing to the watering trough and back. At 12:05 Scotty had to move to a different spot because he had worn a hole in the barn floor with his double shuffle.

At 1:30 Doctor Holcomb arrived home for dinner. He listened to the circumstances of the contest and how long the boys had been jiggling. He gave them good advice, some liniment for swollen feet, and a silver dollar, and sent them home to their mothers.

The Whitehall Independent
June 15, 1983

Lawn Parties – June 20 1894
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The young ladies of the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin gave their first social event June 20, 1894, on the grounds of Our Lady of Angels Church. Miss Anna Gilligan, president of the group, led the members in presenting a successful evening of entertainment.

The evening weather was perfect. The grounds were outlined and bisected with Chinese lanterns and colored glass globes hanging from the trees. An electric arc light showed off the decorations.

The church grounds were conveniently located on the main Canal (Broadway) Street. Six refreshment tables seating sixty people at a time were set out. There was a lemonade stand. Twelve freezers of ice cream with cake, strawberries, coffee, and sandwiches were dispensed by the pretty waitresses. So great was the patronage that the town had to be scoured for another supply and every restaurant visited to satisfy the demands of the crowd.

Chantz's Military Orchestra played a number of popular pieces from the balcony of the parochial residence. Fire crackers and fire works and animated conversation made a lively occasion until after ten o'clock. The affair netted the Society \$82.

Not to be outdone the ladies of Notre Dame des Victoires had advertisements out for a lawn party on the grounds of the parochial residence that faced Skene Street at that time.

Chantz's Military Orchestra would play and a platform would be erected for dancing. Ice cream and other refreshments would be served and a supper would be available after five o'clock for fifteen cents.

The proceeds would go to help defray the expenses of the new church building being erected at this time. The French congregation was erecting a new house of worship and would move from the one they had been occupying on the site of the present Longtin's filling station.

Chinese lanterns seemed to be the popular outdoor decoration for festivities in this era.

The Whitehall Independent
June 6 1984

The Children's Opera February 1896
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In the 1890's the musical comedies of Gilbert and Sullivan were popular in Whitehall. Three winter seasons saw the production of three of the dramas in Music Hall

(upstairs over the two buildings north of Division Street on Main Street). They were carried on succeeding nights to Ticonderoga and Mechanicville.

Then in February 1896 H.M.S. Pinafore was presented by seventy children under the auspices of St. Mary's Guild of Trinity Church. The performance of the children was described as "dainty, cunning, and in miniature," rather than strong and vigorous. The movements were graceful and pleasing. The whole seventy were properly trained, in fact were ones who had already won a local reputation and were popular with the public.

To bring this perfection in children is more difficult than the uninitiated have any idea of. Mrs. Balcom of Rutland was the director of the production who trained both soloists and choruses. All lines and music were named perfectly. The costumes were prettily made and formed a lovely stage picture. An orchestra would have drowned out the childish voices but William Skeels played an admirable piano accompaniment.

Featured were Albert Smith (Sir Joseph Porter), who enunciated clearly; Walter Nichols (Captain Corcoran), a promising actor; Miss Libbie Bancroft (Cousin Hallie); Miss Mila Skeels (Josephine). Bessie Spencer was Ralph Rackstraw; Bessie Bascom, the best actress, was Buttercup; Miss Douglas acted as Dick Middy; Belle Pollard was Balslay and Leon Foote, Middy.

Most of the chorus was soprano but many duets, solos, and trios were performed in good harmony. All three nights February 12, 13 and 15 were effective, each performer going a little 'further in artistic performance.

The Whitehall Times

June 8, 1972

Lake Excursions September 1907

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

One of the charming entertainments of the Village of Whitehall used to be the excursions by lake steamer or canal boat through Lake Champlain. This trip is commonplace now for the many owners of cruisers who pass through our village but gone is the thrill of these trips sponsored by various social organizations.

One such trip on 4 September - 1907 is described in the Whitehall CHRONICLE, a single issue among several, besides several full years of the Whitehall TIMES that has been made available through the thoughtfulness of Eleanor Fagan. These single issues of early years are filling in the gaps in the newspaper files.

This particular excursion was sponsored by Phoenix Lodge, 96, F. & A. M. to raise funds for the Masonic Temple to be erected at the corner of Church (Broadway) and Division streets.

For his dollar admission the excursionist would have a full day sail of 140 miles over Lake Champlain on the steamer **Chateaugay**, a model of which is in Skenesborough Museum. This vessel, one of the newest and finest at that time, could carry 1200 passengers.

The traveler could buy refreshments at a fair price (no intoxicating liquors to insure good order and safety) and his small children under five could go free. At Burlington, the largest city of Vermont, he would have time to see the university, beautiful on its hill; Billings Library; the government building; the beautiful cemetery; the palatial residences.

To whet the desire of Whitehallers to see more of the “fair body of water that laves New York, Vermont and Canadian shores and awaken a fuller sense of appreciation of its beauty and historical associations,” the editor of the CHRONICLE quoted at length from W. H. H. Murray: **Lake Champlain and Its Waters.**

Mr. Murray dwells on the ideal conditions of recreation and enjoyment and the health which comes to those canoeists and campers who love the outdoor life and world. He extols the natural scenery of highest order and the bays alive with historic memories. He lists the chasm, gorge, mountains and the many islands.

For those of us who live now within touch of this Great National Park, as Murray calls it, he describes the glories that we take as commonplace because of our nearness to it, though there must be a subconscious awareness of the beauty for on a recent trip to Norway two Whitehallers, amid the spectacular scenes of that country, were constantly saying: That looks like the block mountain of Skene; that resembles the mountains around Lake George; Bergen is like Elizabethtown, in a hollow surrounded by mountains; this road with its trees and rocks resembles the one leading to Saranac Lake; South Bay resembles a fjord as it wanders from the mountains.

A trip through Lake Champlain still has these beauties of bay, mountain and shore to see, even if stops were not made at Cold Springs, Benson and Orwell.

The Whitehall Independent December 17, 1985

Whitehall Chronicle – December 17, 1909 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Railroad Y.M.C.A. was a place of entertainment for many tastes. This building, given by H.G. Burleigh, was on Canal Street (now Broadway) between Queen and Gilmore Streets, on the east side. Rev. G. Wood of Dresden was to give a talk on Sunday 19 December. He was a well known speaker. A series of concerts was being given. The next one would be the Toronto Male Quartet. The Girls Bowling Club would soon give a concert entitled “The Seminary Girls”. The bowling tournament was in fine shape with the Owls and the Demonstrators vying with each other.

Other entertainment in the village in December was a series of indoor baseball at the Armory. Company I was: playing Saratoga Boys 17 December, Albany 21 December, Glens Falls 28 December, Albany 1 January. On 12 December was the Masonic Ball; on 31 December, Notre Dame’s Annual Fair in Griswold Hall (Iron Front) with Pond’s Orchestra 1 January, McEnelly’s Singing Chorus at the Armory with Middlebury College Singing Orchestra. The attraction at Happyland was the singer Esther Patrick of New York City. The Ladies of St. Mary’s Guild of the Trinity Church was planning a chicken pie supper.

The Whitehall Times
May 19, 1977

1914 Chautauqua
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Chautauqua, the word, to present day citizens means a place on a lake of the same name in southwestern New York. Others may know it as a summer resort where a summer school and recreation center exist. To others the word will bring a childhood thrill of remembrance when they knew Chautauqua was coming to town.

Chautauqua Assembly, organized in 1912, meant a week of entertainment for all motion pictures, concerts, interesting lectures and instructive speakers. The lecturers were well known in their fields of endeavor. For the children, the Junior Chautauqua, there was special emphasis. They met in the morning to be instructed by college women especially trained for the work. In Whitehall's case they assembled on Trinity Church lawn.

By 1914 Chautauqua had two circuits with 14 big tents, 14 pianos, 14 living tents, 14 auditorium tents and 20,000 chairs, and traveled in many states. The Swarthmore circuit visited Whitehall.

The first Chautauqua program in Whitehall was held at the south end of Riverside Park, Aug. 10-15. The park dedication had been held July 4. The opening day was in concert with the Macabees Convention and Whitehall's business men's great parade. The tent was pitched in the mall between the park and present Skenesborough Museum, which was not erected until 1917. The \$2 ticket, transferable, admitted the holder to the exercises twice a day.

Advertising for the event started 20 July with Dr. Joslin leading a cavalcade of 12 autos, highly decorated, through Castleton, Granville, Comstock and Fort Ann. Other places were visited later. Chairman Rev. Quinn announced that already 400 adult tickets had been sold with a hope of reaching a top of 700.

The Consolidated Light and Power Company electrified the village street with the village paying for the wire. The village board also instituted a general clean-up campaign. Whitehall was in holiday attire for Chautauqua Week and the parade.

Some of the many lectures on modern topics were the Panama Canal, Enoch Arden Yodelers, Hawaii as I Saw It, Tuskegee Institute Singers, and Acres of Diamonds.

After the six-day event the Chautauqua tent was folded and on its way to Frederick, Md. Consensus said it was an educational and financial success, the greatest educational entertainment ever held in Whitehall. A contract was signed with the company for a return the following year.

This type of entertainment was continued until 1926. It was replaced by motion pictures, Community Concert series, radio and TV.

The Whitehall Times
June 4, 1987

1914 First Year of Chautauqua
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Chautauqua was organized in 1912 by some men in Philadelphia who hoped the series of programs would be a leading fare in education. That year 41 series was held in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and New Jersey. In 1913 it held 103 meetings in seven states; and in 1914, 200 in North America. This was the year it was introduced into Whitehall.

Chautauqua, named from a summer resort on Lake Chautauqua, was a week of fun interspersed with lectures and music of the best sort. It was every bit as interesting as a circus. The big tent brought to the nation a board forum of topics of the day by specialists, prominent affairs, and welfare of the country. This was in the form of movies, pictures, concerts, interesting and instructive lectures, and other novel attractions. There were junior meetings in the mornings which were entertaining and instructive lectures under the supervision of young college women from Swathmore.

In Whitehall Rev. Clarence R. Quinn was the chairman of the Chautauqua with 32 guarantors who supported the project. An advertising agent, Mrs. E. B. Baenz, arrived to arouse enthusiasm. Twelve autos started on a Monday afternoon from Riverside Park, decorated with Chautauqua colors and American flags. It was led by Dr. Joslin. The cars were filled with the patrons of the project. They toured Castleton, Granville, Fort Ann, and Comstock. Tickets were transferable and cost \$2 for the week's entertainment, twice a day.

The performances were held in big tents. The organization had six autos for advertising, fourteen tents, fourteen auditorium tents, fourteen picture outfits, and 20,000 chairs. In Whitehall the scene of the Chautauqua was south of the Whitehall Volunteer Firemen's building. This was before the Canal Terminal Building was erected in 1917.

This first year of Chautauqua in Whitehall was successful. The fact that it was not a religious "Camp meeting" had to be emphasized. The contract for the next year's "greatest and educational" entertainment was signed and the year began with many subscriptions already paid.

Fires & Fire Companies

The Whitehall Independent

May 28, 1986

The Fire Department

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Fire engines and hose carts were companions in the work of firemanics in the early days of Whitehall. The engines pumped the water from the nearest source - ponds, wells, tanks like the one at Gilmore Street, Canal, and lake. The two wheeled carts carried the hoses to be attached to the engines. Both engines and carts were raced to the fire scene by the firemen. The companies vied with each other to see which one could arrive at the scene first. Occasionally, if the site was difficult to reach, teams of horses were called for.

The records of the fires cited by name the engines and hose companies that arrived on the scene and the length of the hoses that were put into play. Sometimes two or three hoses would be branched to throw more water on the fire. Early pictures of parades, especially, show the engines, hose carts, and the hook and ladder. The members of the companies in uniform marched with the apparatus and someone carried a trumpet, the bell of which was filled with flowers contributed by the women. Several of these are in Skenesborough Museum.

When the fire bell rang, the race was on to secure the best spot for the engine and hose. It could be any one of the bridges, the bank of the canal, the various docks, or on the ice. Holes had to be cut in the ice and often the smallest pipes froze. Sometimes the supply of water gave out.

The greatest number of fires in homes was the exploding kerosene lamp or overturned or dropped lamp. Chimney fires, overheated stoves, burning leaves, matches in the hands of children or careless adults dropping one in spilled alcohol, spilled lime that water had reached, or incinerisms were other causes.

Incidents in some fires were humorous and some hard to believe. One told of a quarrel between members of the company of who should hold the pipe. One told of a hose that was cut because of rivalry of which company should have position on a bridge. Steamer No. 3 had a burst pipe because someone had placed a stone as big as a turkey's egg in the discharge pipe. In spite of that at first the engine threw a good stream. In a drug store fire the contents of a jug were, sprayed over a fireman and his clothes caught fire.

His companions immediately doused him with water. There was danger too. One fire hat in the Museum has a great indentation in the top caused by a falling brick. The man survived. Two men were lauded for chasing six pigs from under a burning barn behind the Hall House.

Besides the items mentioned, Skenesborough Museum has many pictures of firemen, badges, some belts, and the life saving circle that caught people falling from heights. This exhibit will be refurbished this year as some Champlain clay reached the items during the flood.

The Whitehall Times
February 1968

Whitehall's Fire Engines, 1806
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The fire engines history is being difficult to trace in dateline and detail. Even programs of the various fire company balls have been used for sources.

The Laws of 1806 invested Whitehall Landing with power to establish a fire department and purchase supplies and equipment. Colonel John Williams, owner of much land in the community, presented it with a small rotary hand engine but it was not very efficient.

In 1841 the village purchased a hand pumper from Button Company in Waterford. This company became known as Torrent Engine Company No. 1. In 1867 the company was reorganized and became Volunteer Fire Engine Company No. 1. By 1892 she was used only in parades. Now she is on exhibit in the Skenesborough Museum.

In mid century; 1848-1855 the annual social ball programs listed Torrent Engine Co. No. 1, Deloge Co. No. 2, Star Engine Co., Empire Hook and Ladder Co. 1 Phoenix Engine Co. No. 2, Phoenix Engine Co. No. 3.

The Star Fire Company No. 3 was in existence by 1849, housed in the former railroad depot at the corner of Canal Street and Church. This was a company of young men who were greatly praised for their work and always first at the fires. This company was reorganized in 1854 as Phoenix Engine Company No. 3. The engine was sold by the village in 1876.

The Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1 in existence by 1851 resigned from the Fire Department in 1884. This apparatus is also on display in Skenesborough Museum.

In 1868 the Independent Co. No. 1, Whitehall Steamer was organized by a private company. The engine was sold to the village trustees in 1871. The company disbanded and then reorganized and became known as the Independent Steamer No. 1.

In 1869 a steam fire engine company was authorized and called Whitehall Steamer Three Fire Engine Company. Their constitution was accepted in 1870. This was a "high toned" company and served also as a social order. At the time of the new fire department in 1913 it had 155 members.

The W. E. Cooke Fire Engine Co. No. 1 was organized in 1877. It was the property of a stock company. Its main purpose could have been the protection of the lumber companies.

The W. F. Bascom Fire Company No. 1 was active between 1881-1883 with 31 members.

The Whitehall Times
May 21, 1986

The Fire Department 1830 - 1914
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In going through the membership lists of the various fire companies, I think this list contains all hose and engine companies up to the beginning of the Paid Fire Department. According to Cristfield Johnson in his History of Washington County, John Williams presented Whitehall with a fire engine in the early years of the nineteenth century. The first piece of apparatus of which there is definite record is the Torrent Engine run by the Torrent Engine Company No. 1. This company was organized in 1830. They purchased the engine from Button Company in Waterford including the hose for \$1350. It was still in use in 1874 with the W. F. Bascom Engine Company. After its active life it was used in many parades and stored in the Whitehall Volunteer Fire Company Station. It is now on view in Skenesborough Museum, where it is one of the interesting exhibits.

According to its constitution the Empire Hook and Ladder Company was founded 13 August 1848 and had a long life. It too was stored in the same building as the Torrent Engine and is an equally interesting exhibit in the Museum.

Phoenix Fire Engine Company No. 3 was organized 14 February 1854 and disbanded in 1888. An earlier Star Company was mentioned in PHOENIX records as being active in 1849.

Citizens Hose Company No. 6 was organized 28 October 1896 and was in existence until 1907

On file are several fire record books according to years. However if these companies kept records of their meetings there must be some of the minute books still in existence. It seemed to be the custom for secretaries to keep record books in their private possession after the organization was disbanded. Perhaps some of the families connected with these companies have such a treasure in the attic.

Niagara Engine Company No. 2 was organized circa 1860. It was spelled by one recorder as Niagra. In a list of fires in the 1870's Niagara is mentioned last in 1874, but Johnson says it was in service at the W. H. Cook mill in 1878.

In 1869 Independent Company No. 1 Whitehall was organized and worked until 1872.

Whitehall Steamer No. 3 came into existence 5 January 1870 and was in existence until transferred to the Paid Department 1 January 1913. It was nicknamed "Old Reliable". The INDEPENDENT came under its care when that was sold to the Village by its stock-holders.

James Doren Engine Company No. 1 was reported 5 August 1874 and was transferred to the Paid Fire Department in 1913.

On 27 June 1875 A. C. Hopson Hose Company was formed to work with the Torrent Engine. The next year on 4 September 1876 this company became A. C. Hopson Engine Company only to become H. G. Burleigh Company in 1877. This transferred to the Paid Fire Department.

In 1877 W. H. Cook Engine Company No. 5 was listed.

George Brett Hose Company was organized 14 January 1878 to be disbanded by the Village Trustees 30 March 1881. Then it was reorganized as the N. W. Vannier Hose Company No. 2 in 1885.

B. F. Lacca Hose Company No. 3 was listed in January 1883 and reorganized as S. H. Donaldson Hose Company No. 3, 23 November 1886. It was disbanded in 1888.

H. J. Church Hose Company No.5 was organized in 1885, reorganized as P. H. Gaylord hose Company No. 5, 23 March 1887, and changed to E. P. Newcomb Hose Company No. 5, 24 May 1894. It was disbanded 28 October 1896.

Sylvester Mahan Hose Company No. 2 came into existence 1893 and lasted until disbanded 8 March 1906.

The Whitehall Times

August 5, 1971

1849

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Incendiarism was noted as the probable cause of two of the fires attended by the Star Fire Company No. 3. And strangely enough both were at the barn of J. C. Parke situated in the rear and connected with the Anglo Saxon Hotel.

The first time 2 March 1849 the flames were soon out but it was observed that if there had been any delay in discovery, it would have been impossible to save any part of "Dublin" as the wind blew a gale from the north. The fire had been set from the outside. (Was "Dublin" a section of Whitehall around the area of Church and Saunders Street?)

The second fire in this barn was over three weeks later, 26 March. This time the building was entirely destroyed and James Havens house was considerably damaged. Did someone dislike Mr. Parke?

John C. Parke, son of John Parke, was a hotel man himself. He came to Whitehall in 1805, aged two, and at age eight with his father carried the United States mail between Whitehall and Troy. In 1828, age 25, he bought and kept the Clinton House until 1832. This hotel was located on Clinton Avenue, approximately west of the present Lock 12. He built a house and store adjoining the Clinton House and went into trade. Later he returned to the Clinton House. He went from there to a lumber business in Pennsylvania.

In 1853, he owned and ran the Franklin House in Rutland. After this he returned to Whitehall and conducted the Parke House, later known as Hall's Hotel. He was on the canal board and a canal collector of the Port of Whitehall for several years. He married first a daughter of W. King and second the widow of Archibald Ferris. He died 12 October 1870 at 67 years and is buried in the Williams Street cemetery. A Presbyterian, he signed in 1842 the petition to Prevent the Arrival of Boats on the Sabbath.

The Anglo Saxon Hotel was located approximately on the site of the present Pippo Store and the bank. Saunders Street had not yet been cut through from Church Street to present Main Street. At various times it was known as the United States Hotel, Parke

House, Whitehall House, Anglo Saxon Hotel, Knight House and Hall House. In 1849 the Anglo Saxon Hotel was occupied by S. M. Jillson.

The Whitehall Times **August 12, 1971**

Star Company #3 - 1849 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Star Company No. 3 continued its good work. On 21 June 1849 it worked from one o'clock in the morning until 5:30 a.m. This time it saved Bascom & Gaylord's store owned by W. S. Eddy on the dock and part of J. H. Boyd's store but was not so fortunate with other buildings. The Clinton House and barn on Clinton Street went this time as did W. B. Harris's store and barn. John C. Parke was unlucky again as he lost the store he had built next to the Clinton House.

Another landmark destroyed this night was the lattice covered bridge over Wood Creek mentioned in *LIFE IN WHITEHALL, A TALE OF SHIP FEVER TIMES*. This was the lower bridge that spanned the creek about where Philip Skene's pegged bridge did. A model of such a bridge as Skene built is in the Shipyard Model in Skenesborough Museum. The wind favored the firefighters this time. If it hadn't, more of the village would have been lost this very hot night.

A month and a half later in mid-forenoon the alarm of fire came from the American Hotel on Williams Street. This hotel was located approximately opposite the east end of Saunders Street to the south. The fire started from the chimney or the oven in the back. Star had to borrow 52 feet of hose from Engine No. 2 but they effectively halted the fire so that only \$100 damage occurred, covered by insurance.

The next fire for Star No. 3 seemed to be a relay race. Second on the ground this time, they obtained water from Wood Creek which they supplied to Engine No. 1 which they in turn sent into Engine No. 2 who played it on the fire and eventually stopped it. The fire originated in a shed next to John Bennett's house on Williams Street and burned three of his wooden buildings. Mr. Bennett had insurance of \$500 but he had been altering and making repairs without permission of the insurance company. His loss was \$2000. Again the fire was believed to be the work of an incendiary.

Mr. Bennett's fire occurred 12 Sept. 1849. The next fire recorded by Star No. 3 was 12 Dec. 1850, a chimney fire. Two weeks later she was called out again at 2 a.m. and worked one half hour before the other engines arrived. The upper part of the "Mansion House" was afire but the blaze was put out before the other two engines had their steams going. A quantity of snow on the adjoining roofs kept the fire from spreading.

Many of the fire account entries closed with "the engine was returned to the Engine House and the roll was called and the meeting adjourned." John Blount was captain of Star Company No. 3 in 1850.

Star company accepted an invitation from the citizens of Whitehall to attend in uniform the ceremonies 18 July 1850 to be had as a testimonial of respect to the memory of the late President Zachary Taylor.

The Whitehall Times
August 4, 1988

Early newspaper account vividly details big fire in 1849 at Clinton House

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Whitehaller

It is tantalizing to know that there were newspapers in Whitehall in earlier times and find out about them in such stray items as this one. There are copies of Whitehall's first paper, the Emporium, first appearing in 1823. Its editor was buried in the Williams Street Cemetery. The stone states this fact. This newspaper item came in a copy from a newspaper with the name Kellogg handwritten at the top. The Reverend Kellogg was a Presbyterian minister in Whitehall at the date of this item.

WHITEHALLER EXTRA

To our Patrons and Friends Terrible Conflagration in Whitehall! Loss estimated at \$50,000.

At about 1 o'clock this morning a fire was discovered in the barn adjoining the Clinton House, which continued to rage until about 4, burning the Clinton House, and all the buildings on Clinton Avenue, and up Canal Street as far as the Marble Pillar Store.

Among those who burned out are Wm. B. Bums, JAS. & W. F. McGhee, P. Johnson & Son, (Clinton House), Bascom & Gaylord, Eddy & Mann, E. Dunson, Jas. H. H. Parke, F.

Schuyler, D. M. Russegegue, D. S. Wright, Boys & Wilson, Davis & Gibson, H. Gaylord, H. Stowell, D. Penfield, F. Griswold, E & A Austin, Whitehaller office, Chronicle office, E. P. Thurston's Book Bindery, and several groceries on Clinton Avenue.

The horses and carriages in the barn of the Clinton House were all burned. Some of the boarders at the Clinton House barely escaped with their lives; among the number was John G. Dudley of Albany, who was badly burned and lost his valise, and wallet

The fire companies were promptly on hand, and rendered all the assistance they could.

It will be obvious to all, by the above; we shall be unable to issue "The Whitehaller" for a few days. Our establishment is in ashes, a very small portion of the type having been saved. Sickness and this last calamity have almost completely prostrated us, and we are compelled to say that the continuance of our paper depends altogether on the liberality of our friends and the promptness of those who are indebted to us in liquidating our claims upon them - some of them of long standing. We need every cent~ that is due us. We need it NOW. Shall we have it? The amount separately is but trifling - the aggregate is all important to us. We dislike to dun - but we want the money. Shall we have our honest dues? Need we say more!

Of course, we are obliged to have this extra printed out of town. Next week, or at least week after, we hope to meet all our subscribers with old familiar face.

Shortly after the first cry of fire last evening, Dea. Harry Allen, Grocer on Canal Street, dropped dead on the road. Several others were obliged; to be carried off the ground.

Whitehall, June 22, 1849

The area that this fire covered was approximately the west portion of old Clinton Avenue and up both sides of what would be old Broad Street when the first flatiron building stood opposite the canal.

The Whitehall Times February 1968

1849 - 1854

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

When the Historical society was reactivated in 1951, a Buffalo library returned to Whitehall the Register of Fires, Phoenix Co. 3, of 1849-1854. It evidently had been in Tuttle Company's Secondhand Book Store in Rutland, Vt., as it was dated from there 12 Dec. 1931.

According to the frontispiece of the register, it was written by the secretaries of Star Fire Company No. 3. Those who signed the book were C. D. Nichols, George Millard, William H. Hotchkiss, John W. Gardner and W. R. Wright. It would seem this junior company belonged to the regular Phoenix No. 3 company.

A newspaper tribute to the little "Star" company, pasted in the register, said it was "composed of the youths of the village, commanded by J. D. Blount. They were first on the ground, and their machine was in active operation long before either of the others was brought into play. They maintained their position and persevered to the end. They shared in all the peril and emulated their older brothers, securing a victory over the destructive element. The older companies done well, but the Star outshone them all."

This particular fire occurred 31 Jan. 1849 in the buildings owned by John H. Boyd. An old picture of Whitehall shows the "mill buildings" on Williams Street east of Wood Creek by the lower bridge. The fire started in the ax helve factory owned by William Mitchel in the center of the block.

Star company was on the ice before the other two companies and immediately in action. The valves of the other companies froze in the below zero temperature and had to be thawed with warm water. This took over one-half hour.

The Star played on the main building for an hour and then was ordered by Chief Engineer Tisdale to carry their hose to the third door of the Stone Mill and to the upper floor where they played the water for three hours Through 200 feet of hose.

Mr. Mitchel of the ax helve factory lost \$600; Mr. Moore of the turning shop, \$700. William Walt in the south end of the group had goods and machinery of his carpet factory damaged \$1000 by removal. John H. Boyd had the \$4000 building damage covered by insurance.

The Whitehall Times
August 19, 1971

Star Company #3 - 1851
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

These are the last few entries in Star Fire Company No. 3 record book.

On 9 January 1851 Star Company was called at 3 a.m. to a Dutch Grocery opposite Hooker's Transportation office but didn't have to work as the fire was too far advanced.

At midnight 18 February 1851 fire was discovered in the north end of buildings owned, by A. H. Griswold. The Star threw water first, as usual. This time the buildings burned were the old Academy and tenements on Canal Street, with a loss of \$1000, fully insured.

One of the first schools In Whitehall Village was the old Academy. This stood soon after 1814 on the west side of Center Street where it joins Division Street. It evidently was discontinued as a school by the time the Whitehall Academy was established in the fall of 1848 this second academy stood back from Williams Street to the north of the long row.

On 2 Nov. M. J. Myers barn was fired with the Star first in the field at 1 a.m. So many of these fires occurred at night. The record now skips to 2 Feb. 1852 when A. G. Bristol s Waggon Shop fire was put out. Star No. 3 and Torrent No 1 arrived at the same time on 19 June the slaughter house of Carver & Polly, on the east bank of Wood Creek, was burned. The Star couldn't put out the fire because they discovered the engine was out of order

A large fire occurred 6 Oct. when Nye & Andrews Iron Foundry burned. This early foundry of Nye was near the steamboat landing, the furnace formerly occupied by E. A. Martin & Co. He had later foundries. This time Star could not do good work because the trustees had not provided them with a hose cart and they couldn't work the engine until the man had brought hose to them.

The last entry in this short record book oddly enough took the Star No. 3 back to the scene of the first entry 14 April 1849, the axe helve factory belonging to the estate of William H. Mitchel. The Star engine was stationed at the end of the upper bridge and worked with water from Wood Creek supplied by Deluge No. 2. Just after saving Mr. Rhodes house, the pipe leading from the air chest broke. The engine returned to the engine house and the meeting adjourned until, the next morning.

An Interesting statement ended the record book: "There were no members of the company intoxicated, a fact very gratifying to the treasurer and secretary."

The last entries named the other two engines that worked with the Star: Torrent No. 1 and Deluge No. 2. There have been many engine and hose companies in the history of Whitehall. If only each one had left a record book in a safe depository! The main source of information has to be newspapers. The difficulty here is the lack of complete files of the several newspapers Whitehall has had. Even one issue is valuable.

The Whitehall Times
May 19, 1988

Whitehall Chronicle in 1851
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

On 23 November 1856 at 3 a.m. the building of Antoine and Peter Renois, on Canal Street, near what is now Saunders Street, was a fire. It held the dry goods, grocery, and bakery stores of the Renois and the dwelling of Peter. G. W. Rhodes had an ambrotype saloon there, which in a few days he reopened. R.C. Johnson had a store south on the street. If it were not for the excellent fire department, the entire block from the Parke House (south of present Key Bank) would have been burned, as the next block north was, in 1860.

The Whitehall Times
February 1968

Fire Meetings and Companies - 1851 & 1873
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Whitehall through the years has been host to many fire meetings and companies. Here is a contrast in meetings over the years. From the Whitehall Democrat of 16 July 1851 came this account:

The signal gun was fired at 4 a.m. Deluge 2, Stars 3 Engine companies, and the Empire Hose and Ladder assembled to meet Burlington's Fire Company's Boxers No. 3 and Hook and Ladder No. 1. Preceded by the military Band they went to the Steamboat Landing and with their visitors, to the Military Hall for breakfast. The food was put on by Mr. Scovil of the Crystal Palace.

Then began the round of toasts, E. A. Martin, president of the village started, followed by Judge Joseph Potter; author and legislator David Wilson; and Dr. D. S. Wright, the druggist. This was responded to by Mr. Stevens of the Boxers. The Honorable John H. Boyd spoke, followed by Mr. Lynn of the Boxers addressing himself to Captain J. D. Blount of the Star Company, who replied in turn.

Presentations were next in order. David Wilson spoke 20 minutes in presenting a small banner and a wreath of roses to the Gentlemen of Burlington in behalf of the ladies of Whitehall, plus a wreath of flowers from Mrs. (Dr.) Harrington, plus a banner from a little girl to the Star Company No. 3. This began the cheers; three cheers for the little girl, three cheers for Mrs. Harrington, three cheers for Whitehallers generally – all of these by men of Burlington. Then came three cheers for everybody, by the whole company. At dusk the visitors were escorted to the Steamer.

Editorial comment was this: It was the most pleasant day we have ever known. There was good nature, wit, and gentlemanly bearing on the part of our visitors.

The Fire Muster as reported In the Whitehall TIMES 22 years later 22 August 1873 was a bit different. This consisted mainly of contests during the day. The out-of-town

companies that came by train were met at the station by the Whitehall Fire Department. St. Mary's Band and Doring's Band from Troy, Whitehall's Steamer and Hose were drawn by horses.

Eighteen companies were present. At 6 a.m. Horican Engine, Relief and Rescue Hose Company and Plattsburgh Frontier Engine Company and Belevere Hose of St. Albans arrived accompanied by Chazy Brass Band and were met by St. Mary's Band. At 8 a.m. the others arrived: Castleton Eagle Engine; Glens Falls Defiance and Cataract Engine companies with hose; Sandy Hill Rescue and Independent Engine and Hose; Fort Edward Relief and base with Fort Edward Band; Waterford Knicker Engine Company (with no engine) and Salem Independent Hose Company. By train came Saratoga Hawthorne, Morrissey Engine and Knickerbocker Hose Company. There were six brass bands altogether.

Lots were drawn for place for the hose companies contest on Williams street. The conditions were to run 80 rods, couple the hose, and string 300 feet of hose in the shortest time. The winner was Independent Hose Company of Salem, time 1 minute 49 seconds; prize, \$50.

The engine contest was held above Hall's Hotel. The engines were stationed directly opposite the middle bridge with the throwing stream to the north. Each company was to draw its own water, playing 300 feet of hose with a horizontal stream. Each was allowed 10 minutes to arrange equipment and play, with 5 minutes additional providing a hose burst. The time of the trial was 1 minute. Any engine winning was not to compete for other prizes. First place went to Glens Falls Defiance, 208 feet 5 inches, 200 feet distance thrown for \$200; second place, furthest, Cataract of - Glens Falls, 206 feet 2 inches; \$100; third place, Rescue Squad of Sandy Hill, \$50.

It was noted that 400 visitors were present, the largest muster ever held to that time. During the evening Whitehall's Lacca Hose and Phoenix Engine Company gave a ball at Anderson Hall while Independent Steamer Company held a similar one at Griswold Hall.

An interesting note was that a small panic occurred when word was spread that the Lake Champlain serpent was headed toward the village.

Editorial comment observed that it was one of the most pleasant days and not one fireman was seen drunk on the street during the day.

The Whitehall Independent

April 11, 1984

Fires 1856 - 1874

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Fire is a fascinating topic. It rearranges the form of streets. It demolishes old landmarks. The old account of fires give a history of people and businesses not set down in other places. These several fires extended over half a century but it doesn't mean there were not others in between.

We can appreciate the more our present day fire department when the action of some of the early fire hose and engine companies is related. But I doubt if these actions were typical.

On 23 November 1856 a fire occurred at the spot between the present bank and Renois Building on Saunders Street, before Saunders Street had been extended. On this spot was the former home of the outstanding citizen Melancton Wheeler. It had been turned into stores by R. C. Johnson and C. B. Jillson as a grocery. The fire spread to the Renois Building site, at that time a grocery and a bakery, and on to a building at the north formerly known as the Thurman Building.

Much of Whitehall has been built up from its original situation. This was one of the spots. At that time the land was much lower than now and the sidewalk was built up on a trestle. The basements of the buildings were inhabited by poor Irish immigrants who were described in Wilson's "Life in Whitehall in Ship Fever Times".

Three years later on 19 November 1859 the old Line barn was burned. It was on the site of the Fort Orange Feed Store run by Edward Adams, which many will remember. Sparks flew across the street and set fire to the Dayton Block (Commercial Hotel) occupied by J. F. Johnson and J. F. Baker as stores. It burned Dr. Ellis' building on Bellamy Street and the Old Hotel. This hotel was on the site of the Adirondack Power and Light building known as the Rice House, which was the leading hotel in the war of 1812. Later it became a poor tenant house.

On 14 November 1874 a fire was in the store house belonging to Murray and Reed. It extended to their shed, a two story frame house in their shipyard. The location was not given but must have been north of lower bridge.

The Cooke Engine Company was the first to arrive and they were entitled to the thanks of the citizens for the "noble" work they did. Lacca, Doren, and Niagara 7 Hose companies also arrived, Independent Engine was next but she fizzled out and could not work as it was claimed she was frozen up. The company, or a portion of them, was under the influence of liquor. They became involved in a quarrel as to who would hold the pipe. The engine did not throw any water on the fire.

Whitehall Steamer No.3 went as far as the west end of the bridge and then returned to the house, thinking that Independent and Cooke could take of all that was necessary. The fire lasted about an hour. The loss of Murray and Reed was \$1,000 with insurance of \$400. This was the 19th fire in 1874.

The Whitehall Independent July 29, 1987

The Disastrous Fire in 1860 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

When inquirers about early Whitehall history ask for information of those early years, one reason given them for its scarcity is the fire of 1860. On Friday 13 April about three o'clock in the afternoon its most destructive fire occurred in the village. Although there are no complete files of newspapers, some individual copies were kept. Clarence E. Holden had a copy of one and preserved it in his collection of history. It was printed by the American Sentinel 14 April 1860 in an extra. This paper was the predecessor of "The Whitehall Times" of 1865.

The fire started in the drug store of E. W. Hall, about the corner of what became Broad and Canal streets. It began in a fireplace in the oil room in the back of the store. This fireplace had been used for 33 years for boiling oil. Soot in the chimney took fire and a hot piece fell into the oil kettle, setting the kettle afire. The wind from the northwest was blowing a gale and soon the Commercial Bank next door was afire. The blaze swept on south as far as Division Street where it was checked.

On Williams Street block occupied by Asa Abel, George Bump, John G. W. Watkins, owned by Olif Abell and W. G. Wolcott, were entirely destroyed as was a building of D. S. Wright.

The best part of the business portion of Whitehall was destroyed. Eight stores, Commercial Bank, Postal Express, and the Telegraph Office, a printing office, a shoe shop, and a tin shop were victims. Over these businesses were the various law offices and lodge rooms. One member of Phoenix Lodge saved the records of that organization. Perhaps a study of these will locate the order of the businesses along the street. Mr. Griswold was the first to begin rebuilding and the date of origin of some of the buildings on the street now is 1860.

Across Division Street was the Chapin Block (on the V & S store site) in which the American Sentinel was located. So great was the heat the people were driven back from the windows three times. The window panes melted. A water bucket line was formed in time to save the building. Firemen from Rutland, Fort Edward, and Saratoga rushed to the scene. A corps of policemen was appointed to watch the property taken from the stores and houses.

Burning shingles crossed Wood Creek in the wind where 27 different houses on the east side were afire at one time. The water in the canal had been drawn for repairs. The fire engine had to be taken to the lake and 900 feet of hose was needed. This time lag gave the advantage to the fire.

Back of the main street laid Centre Street, an important street in earlier times. The fire spread to this section and took the Village Hall in which were the Town and Village records. James Tierney's house and four barns of E. W. Hall, W. S. Cody, R. S. Dayton, and James Tierney were consumed.

The Whitehall Times September 10, 1987

The Fire of 1860 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

When inquires about early Whitehall history ask for information of its early years, one reason given them for its scarcity is the fire of 1860. On Friday, 13 April in the afternoon about 3 o'clock one of its most destructive fires occurred in the village. Although there are no complete files of Whitehall news- papers, some individual papers were kept. Clarence E. Holden had a copy and preserved the account in his collection. It was printed in the American Sentinel 14 April 1860 in an extra. This paper was the predecessor of the Whitehall Times of 1865

The fire started in the drug store of E. W. Hall in a fireplace in the oil room in the back of the store. The fireplace had been used for 33 years for boiling oil. The soot in the chimney caught fire. A hot piece fell in the oil kettle and set it afire. The wind was blowing a gale from the northwest and soon the Commercial Bank next door was afire. The blaze swept on south as far as Division Street where it was checked.

Burning shingles crossed Wood Creek where 27 different houses on the east side were afire at one time. The water in the canal had been drawn off for repairs and the engine had to be taken to the lake. 900 feet of hose was needed. This time lag gave the advantage to the fire.

Across Division Street on Canal Street was the Chaplin Block in which the American

Sentinel was located (present V&S Store). Its windows were melted and people were driven back from them three times, the heat was so intense.

A water bucket line was formed in time to save the building. Firemen from Rutland, Fort Edward, and Saratoga rushed to the field. The best business portion of the village was burned. A corps of policemen was appointed to watch the property taken from, the stores and houses.

Back of this section of Canal Street lays Center Street which the fire spread and took the village hall in Whitehall; where the town and village records were kept. James Tierney's house, M. J. Myers brick and wood building occupied as dwellings and four barns of E. W. Hall, W.S. Eddy, R. S. Dayton and James Tierney.

George Bump and John G. Walker, owned by Olif Abel and W. S. Wolcott were entirely destroyed. It was a building of D. S. Wright.

The Whitehall Times

November 22, 1973

Phoenix Fire Engine no. 3 – 1862

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Floyd Mason has presented a discharge paper from the Phoenix Fire Engine Company No. 3 to the Skenesborough Museum file.

Dated 4 August 1862, it is a white paper 10 by 12 ½ inches with a green decorative line border. Printed in red and green, it contains a picture of "Old Glory" and the 1 ½ inch green seal of the Village of Whitehall. It reads:

Fire Department of the Village of Whitehall, N.Y. This certifies that satisfactory evidence has been furnished to the Board of Trustees that Heman C. Allen has been a Regular Member in good standing in Phoenix Fire Engine Company No. 3 of this Village, wherein he has performed the duties of a Fireman for the last five consecutive years, and that he is hereby discharged from further service in that Department, and entitled to all the privileges conferred by law to exempt Firemen. Witness the seal of the Corporation of this Village, and the Signatures of the President and Clerk of the Board of Trustees. By order of the Board.

This was signed by A. Hall, President; A. J. Long, Clerk; H. J. Day, Jr., Foreman and W. H. Bodwell, Secretary.

Owners of such papers as this often framed them and hung them in their homes when wall space was not at such a premium as it is in the smaller homes of today.

Heman C. Allen was a merchant in town selling stoves, tin ware, and house furnishings. He was once a town clerk.

A. Hall was Dr. Atherton Hall who served as president of the Village among the "able lot of 'City Fathers' in 1861-1866." Among other offices were Democratic elector under Samuel J. Tilden, postmaster for 12 years, and agent for the National Express Company for 20 years. In 1842 he signed the "Petition to prevent the arrival of boats on the Sabbath" in 1842.

Alfred Jerome Long was also a doctor, opening an office in Whitehall in 1853. He held the offices of town physician, health officer of the Port of Whitehall, superintendent of public schools, town physician, among others. He "never took rest except when attending meetings of the local, state, and national Medical societies."

So far our file contains only the marriage announcement of William H. Bodwell to Alvira M. Abell 29 January ii 1862. He was a soccer player. We have nothing on H. J. Day.

William A. Mason, Floyd's father, was long a fireman in Whitehall in the days when the members of the fire company took turns sleeping at the firehouse.

Information wanted: The names of the brothers and sisters of Shadrack Doty who was born in Whitehall 15 January 1793. He married in Avon, N.Y., 2 May 1813 Mary Kelcy. This request comes from Mrs. Donald of Berlin, Wisconsin.

The Whitehall Times

February 4, 1968

Minutes of Independent Company No. 1 Whitehall - January 1868

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

This minute book carries the proceedings of a fire company from its organization 27 January 1868 to its dissolution 28 May 1872. The organization meeting was held at the office of Lawyer E. E. Davis. Officers were elected and they were instructed to draw up a constitution and by-laws. The list of officers included well known business men of that time: foreman D. G. Percival; first assistant, W. F. Wait; second assistant, F. H. Gaylord; engineer, H. G. Tisdale; first assistant, Robert Doig Jr.; second assistant, Edward Pitting; secretary, Robert Coah; treasurer, O. A. Manville; steward, R. W. Scribner; superintendent, Charles LaPier.

At the second meeting the company was named officially Independent Company No. 1-Steamer Whitehall. A committee was appointed to select a uniform - J. Sanford Potter, O. A. Manville, Matt J. Myers and another to select a site for the engine house and for its erection - P. W. Scribner, E. E. Davis, D. G. Percival.

The report on a uniform was accepted 2 March 1869. Cap - blue cloth with double gill band; four inches in height with large white fore piece; design of steamer on front.

Shirt - blue flannel made in usual style of firemens shirts; white 'W' german tint on breast, this letter later change to 'I.'

Belt - white leather bound with blue leather; word "Independent" in blue behind; figure I blue in front on slide.

Gloves - white cloth.

Pants - blue cloth with white well on sides. The cost would be between \$18-25. It was \$18.50.

On 9 March a committee of P. W. Scriber, J. S. Potter, and W. F. Wait was directed to make up the rules of order. The meeting place was changed to the office of the Whitehall Transportation Company office.

A special meeting was held at the office of Davis, Cowen, and Percival to approve the amended constitution and by-laws. A new committee was named to draw up the rules of order. These were accepted 6 July. This meeting was held at the office of Manville, Scribner and Co. One of the main orders of business was roll call and the collection of fines for absence of 25 cents.

Fire companies held many social events and the first one of the Independent was a dance. W. C. Clark, Matt J. Myers, and W. F. Wait were able to secure Halls Band of Boston for 27 August. A committee of twenty took care of the affair. The members appeared in uniform.

The meeting of 4 January 1869 was held at the Continental Saloon to elect officers. The members were informed that the steamer was in good working order.

The Whitehall Times

February 18, 1968

Minutes of Independent Company No. 1 Whitehall - January 1868

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

This company was in existence from 27 January 1868 to 28 May 1872 when it was disbanded. At the first meeting the officers were elected who were appointed to draw up the constitution and by-laws. The foreman was D. G. Percival and the engineer was H. G. Tisdale. These first members were the outstanding businessmen of the village. The steamer was Steamer Whitehall No. 1.

Meeting places were varied - the Whitehall Transportation Company office; Davis, Corrien and Percival office; Manville. Scribner and Co.; the Continental Saloon; the Engine House; and the rooms of H. W. Davis. From this day 2 May 1870 the meetings were held in the latter rooms which they rented until dissolution.

The main part of all meetings was taken up by collecting fines or excusing members from paying. A list of infractions was read each meeting. The list, called Rules of Order, included absence from meetings, tardiness, and not addressing the chair, not standing up when speaking, and using improper language. The fine was twenty-five cents.

One of the most important pieces of business was determination of the uniform. The blue cloth cap had a double gilt band, four inches in height with a large white fore

piece with design of the Steamer on the front. The blue flannel shirt was made in the usual fireman's shirt with a white W German tint on the breast. The belt was of white leather bound with blue leather, the word "Independent" in blue behind with the figure 1" blue on the side in front. The pants were blue cloth with white well on the seam. White cloth gloves were to be worn. The cost was \$18.50 exclusive of trimmings.

Fire companies held social occasions. The Independent Company decided their yearly affair would be a band concert and provided Hall's Band from Boston to furnish the entertainment with a promenade and a dance.

In 1870 the company bought three rubber suits and as many gloves as needed. In June of that year it went to Burlington for the Fourth of July with the Steamer and in October escorted the Hook and Ladder to their new rooms. On 9 January 1871 the name was changed to Independent Steamer Company No. 1. On 28 March 1872 the steamer was sold to 'the village and the company disbanded.

The company recorded eleven fires that it attended. Some were the large fires in the village, 1868 the Roman Catholic Church; 1870 Ames Sash and Door Factory, the old Phoenix barn; in 1871 the Irwin and Laccas wood mill; the Whitehall Transportation barns; and in 1872 John Jalets Shop.

After the company was disbanded in 1872 the members gave its remaining funds to Hose Co. 2. After this the company was reorganized as, the Independent Steamer No. 1

The Whitehall Times

May 7, 1986

Whitehall Fire Department 1868

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Anything about fires - fire, fire engines, hose companies - all related subjects seem to bring a surge of excitement. Whitehall has had its share. For years I have wondered what happened to its fire records - minutes of meetings, members of the companies, fire records.

To the delight of the Reference Library personnel, some of the records have come to light. In cataloging a trunk of items given to the Historical Society ten such records came to light - minute book of the first Independent, fires listed over the years, membership lists, and some hose companies. Although not anywhere complete, thankfully these had not been used as scrapbook leaves, burned, or consigned to the dump. Added to the material and pictures concerning the fire department in the Research Library, these records have enriched an aspect of Whitehall's history which is now being written.

One of the records is the Minute Book of Independent Company No. 1. On 27 January 1868 a group of men under the leadership of P. W. Scribner met in the office of E. E. Davis to organize a company and elect officers for Steamer Whitehall under the chairmanship of E. E. Davis and Secretary O. A. Manville. These officers were: Foreman, D. G. Percival; First Assistant, W. T. Wait; Second Assistant, Fred W. Gaylord; Engineer, H. G. Tisdale; First Assistant, Robert Doig, Jr.; Second Assistant

Edward Pittinger; Secretary, Robert H. Cook; Treasurer, O. A. Manville; Steward, P. W. Scribner; Superintendent, Charles LaPierre. The office of Superintendent was afterwards dropped. This group became the Board of Officers and was to draw up the Constitution and By-Laws. The first bit of business was to name the Company - Steamer Whitehall No. 1.

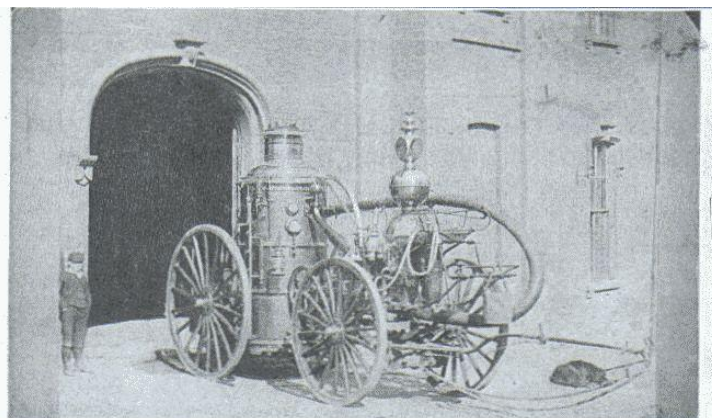
At the next meeting the name was changed. Hereafter it was known as Independent Company No. 1 Steamer Whitehall. Both spellings of the Village were used throughout the book, White Hall and Whitehall. The Constitution and By-Laws were kept on file in another record book, not now available. Every bit of business throughout the record was attended to by committees of three to five men.

The first meetings were held in various offices - E. E. Davis; David, Cowen and Percival; Manville, Scribner and Company; Whitehall Transportation Company; Continental Saloon; until the rooms of H. W. Davis were rented for \$60 a month. These were called Engine House, Company Rooms, It was not until April 1870 that tables and chairs were purchased and they settled in.

The next important bit of business was the selection of a uniform. The choice was a blue cloth cap with double gold band four inches high with white face piece; containing the letter 1, and the design of a steamer in the front. The shirt was blue flannel with a white "W" German tent on the front. This was later changed to "I". The white leather belt was bound with blue, with the word Independent in blue behind the figure 1 on the slide in front. Blue cloth pants had a white welt on the seams. Later white gloves were added to the outfit. J. Sanford offered to buy the material in New York but the Company decided to have the suits made in Wait's tailor shop for \$18.50. In February 1870, three rubber suits were ordered for the Company.

The Whitehall Independent May 14, 1986

Whitehall Fire Department 1868 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



A piece of early fire apparatus shown in front of present Village Building, at first used as rooms for the fire department. The Steamer was sold to the Village.

A great amount of time in the meetings of the Independent Company No. 1 Steamer Whitehall was taken up with determining the fines of members. Rules of Order attached to the By-Laws, which were kept in a different book, fixed the amount of fines for tardiness, inattendance at meetings, absence from roll call at fires, and profane language. The amounts ranged from 25 cents to a dollar. Time was also spent in debating if a member should be excused from a fine entirely, have the fine lowered, or be able to pay in a lump sum.

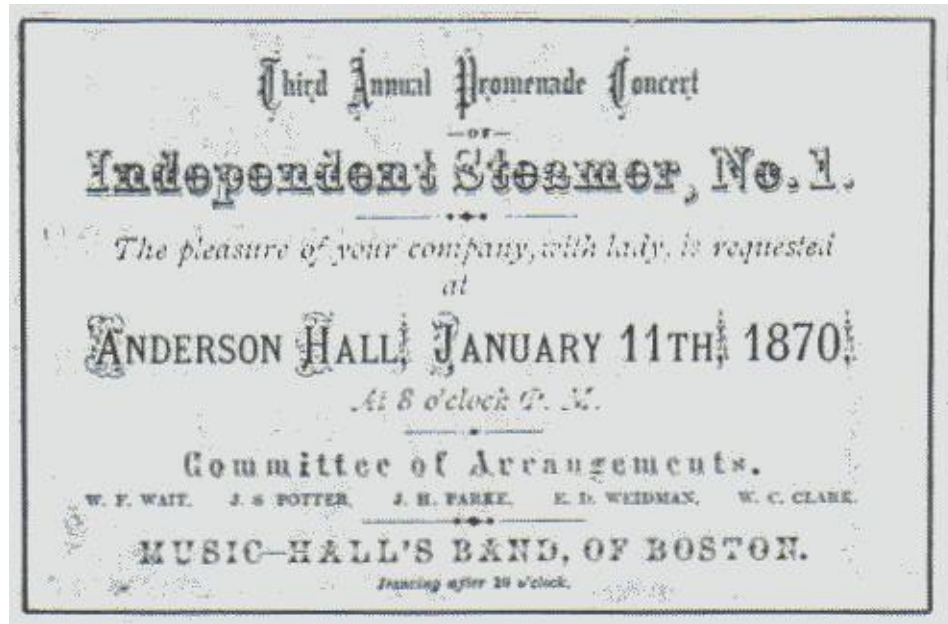
A first public appearance of the Company was a concert by Hall's Band from Boston. There were committees to correspond with the band, to write the invitations, to take charge of the finances, and to be floor managers. The members were charged to appear in uniform at the concert, held in the latter part of August 1868. No date was set in the minutes. The same procedure was followed in January 1870 when committees were named for a promenade and dance with Music again by Hall's Band of Boston.

On 4 July 1870 the Company as a whole attended a muster at Burlington, Vermont, with the parties owning the Steamer giving consent. The members who attended had to pay their own expenses. In October 1870 the Company was invited to escort the Hook and Ladder Company to their rooms when ready. This machine is in Skenesborough Museum. W.F. Wait, a member and businessman in the clothing and carpet line, left Whitehall for Auburn. He was given a social and dance in March 1871. On Memorial Day, 30 May 1871, the Company accompanied G.A.R. in decorating the Veterans' graves. The Company invited the Durkee Steamer to march with them at a Fireman's Parade in Whitehall, 11 October, 1871.

The Company attended fires in its short life; at the Roman Catholic Church 24 February 1869 before the congregation divided; Holcomb's barn 1 March 1870 when they couldn't reach the water; Ames Sash and Door Factory 16 March 1870 when they couldn't get fired up; Old Phoenix Barn 19 April 1870 when their work was successful; John C. Chapman's house and shop next to the Doren Building on Williams Street; Blakeslee's store 21 February 1871 where they did well; at George Moore's house where they were not used 28 February 1871; at Webster's barn where the Steamer did not work 25 March 1871; at Irwin's & Lacca's Mill (wood mill) on Williams Street 4 June 1871 where they had the first stream on the fire; at Charley Collins' house 24 August 1871 where the Steamer did not work well; at Whitehall Transportation Company's barns where they did work well 12 September 1871.

On 28 May 1872 a special meeting was called to decide if the Company would keep together, as the Steamer had been sold to the Village of Whitehall. The decision was to disband. On 25 June 1872 the stockholders of the Independent Steamer Company No. 1 gave the property of the Company to the charge of James Wood to be given to Hose Company No. 2.

This Independent Company should not be confused with the later Whitehall Steamer Co. No. 3.



The Whitehall Times
August 17, 1987

Washington County News – 1871
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Fire in early June took the steam planing mill and axe helve factory of Irwin and Lacca on Williams Street. It also damaged the carpenter shops of Joseph Wilson and A. C. Hobson, two of the carpenters and architects of Whitehall. Irwin and Lacca were to build in a different spot north of American Alley (North Mountain).

The Whitehall Times
September 24, 1987

The Washington County News – 1871
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Niagara Hose company was reorganized. It had 'Run' with the Independent Steamer Company. The members took the engine Torrent No.1 which had been "run" with a volunteer company for several years. It was expected the company would do a fine job.

The Whitehall Times
October 8, 1987

The Washington County News – 1871
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

For a great number of years Whitehall was known as a lumber yard because of the quantity of the timber and lumber stacked over the northern end of the village and by its several saw mills and planing mills. When fire struck, the situation was extremely serious.

On 11 September fire broke out in a canal barn, spread to the stables of the Whitehall Transportation Company and from there to the lumber yards of Manville, Scribner and Company. The fire in the piles of dry lumber was furious. At times the firemen threw water into the air and let it fall on themselves to keep them from scorching. For over a day fires broke out in the ruins to be quenched by the company's own engine. Only one house was destroyed in the fire. One cow tied to a manger walked calmly out of the barn after the rope burned to let her free.

On 13 September the B.F. Lacca Hose Company was; presented with a trumpet by their patron B. F. Lacca at a firemen's tournament. It was customary in parades for the captain to carry a trumpet, the bell of which was filled with a bouquet by some lady. This same issue reported that the Doren Hose Company purchased a silver trumpet in New York City. It was 22 inches in length and the bell and mouth piece were lined with gold. It had elaborate engravings and designs on the sides. Skenesborough Museum has several trumpets in its collection, one of which answers this description.

The James Doren Hose Co No. 1 sent thanks for assistance to them in the second annual parade 11 September to the ladies who sent magnificent bouquets, to John Jalet for the use of his team for the carriage, and to S. Laravea for the use of his "beast of burthen" which with some assistance drew the supply wagon.

The Whitehall Times
August 13, 1987

Washington County Post – March 18, 1871
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Often in accounts of fires it is noted that they occur in threes. On 11 March a barn of George Neddo in the boatyard at the Elbow was taken. On 17 March the barn of Mark Doherty was burned; on this same night the barn of Taylor Jillson, located adjoining his tannery on Williams Street was consumed. Six cows were lost in an incendiary fire.

The Whitehall Times
October 12, 1972

1872 & 1897
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

As you pick up the big family Bible, old Doctor's book, or other tome of such large dimensions, are you surprised to find some colorful tree leaves still in good condition? Leaf and flower pressing used to be a handicraft for amateurs. The **Whitehall TIMES** of Oct. 23, 1872 deemed it important enough to give directions.

"A few thick blotting pads (blotters are now hard to find) some sheets of drawing paper, a camel's hair brush, and some amber varnish are all the necessary appliances, save a thick book to press the leaves between the blotting pad so as to extract the moisture before they are varnished and placed upon the paper.

The article goes on to state that the collection of leaves was now a matter of business no less than pleasure. The fancy goods shops of large cities are each fall supplied with the rarest of specimens and boxes of them are each year shipped to Europe by tradesmen. Already the leaves are turning; and the ivy, especially, is in proper condition. The poisonous plant makes the prettiest leaves and it not so dangerous but that most people can handle it in the fall."

(Title of this poem is, sadly, unreadable)

Here, tonight, where once the serried hosts
Of Armed invaders, from the English coasts,
Encamped, and feasted, while they planned
Their futile projects to enslave our land;
Where once the red-men found their forest fare
And battled with the prowling lynx or bear,
Or tireless, chased the antlered deer
Through bosky copse and covert fare and near.

With subtle skill, and deadly savage craft
Unerring, launched the feathered shaft;
Here, where the dappled fawns once fearless played
Beneath the all pervading forest shade
This sylvan scene from memory's golden mine,
Evolved like fantasies from time's old wine,
Has vanished as the morning's mists, and place
Gives to new creations of our day and race.

Tonight, no army seeks its tents to pitch
Upon thy fields thou pleasant village - rich
In History's legends, facts and olden lore
About events occurring at thy very door

In by-gone days, when our land unfurled
Its starred defiance to the world
And won through patriots' blood its crest,
Its title proud of "Empire of the West."

Do you recognize Whitehall In this reply of James A. Holden to a toast in 1897 at a Tri-county Firemen's association meeting?

The Whitehall Times December 10, 1987

The Fire Department in 1873 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The fire department of 1873 consisted of two steamers, one hand engine, one hook and ladder, and four hose companies, all acting under a chief and an assistant engineer appointed annually by the village trustees. The fire companies contained 140 active men, all enrolled with pride as members of the Whitehall Fire Department. The election of officers occurred annually in January.

The Whitehall Steamer on 1 January 1873 in their room elected fireman W. F. Bascom; first assistant T. A. Paterson; second assistant B. W. Pecor; Frank Pecor third assistant; J. M. Wood secretary; Charles Lotrace, treasurer; E. H. Jillson, engineer; with two assistants; and two stewards.

The Doren Hose Association was an independent organization, efficient and popular. They were proud of their carriage and trappings which they owned, and their stringing of their hose when required - always "ready and willing." In 7 January at the Lake House (northwest corner Bellamy and early Canal) the members elected T. M. Dill captain for his fifth term; W. D. Butts, assistant captain; J. Tilford, president.

The Phoenix Engine Company No. 3 was a popular company dated back to the 1840's. The original members had been replaced over the thirty years by young and brave members whose motto was "Ever ready and willing." Their pet machine had been sold by the trustees of the village and replaced by the Torrent. They elected four 1873 John Davey, foreman; Carlos Shattuck, first assistant; Seth Powel, second assistant; John H. Rodd, secretary; D. O. Gibbs, treasurer; Lawrence Frazier, steward; George Dunson, engineer; Charles Sweet, first; pipeman; R. Henderson, second pipeman.

The Engine Hook and Ladder Company, No. 1 had its 25 anniversary at their house 7 January. It was organized 14 August 1848 and; Olif Abell was chosen captain. This year P. P. Gaylord was - again elected captain, having served five years already. Others were Henry D. Black, first lieutenant; Lafay M. Wilson, second lieutenant; George Brett, treasurer; J. A. Watkins, secretary; Hannibal Allen, steward; John Brett, first greaser; Olive Thomas, second greaser.

The first piece of fire apparatus was presented to the early village by John Williams in its early days. From that time Whitehall has had protection from the dreaded fire enemy.

The Whitehall Times
August 30, 1973

July 1873
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

At a meeting of the James Doren Hose Association held 30 July the association was reinstated in the Fire Department. Their repaired hose carriage, iron work by Charles Lotrace and painting by Myron Greenough will have the sides of the reel of French glass mirror.

The Whitehall Times
September 30, 1973

September 1873
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

There was a procession of Joy and holiday: hilarity when the Catamount fire engine arrived lately purchased by our boys from Glens Falls. Marshall T. M. Dill preceded the Doren Hose Company; paraded the streets and then placed the engine in the house of the Torrent. The members of Old Phoenix Engine Co. No. 3 sent a card of thanks to the people of Whitehall for the subscription to buy the Catamount and for the parade. The Catamount name was changed to William H. Cooke, Engine No.5.

The Whitehall Times
November 8, 1973

October 1873
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Firemen's parades were colorful events in the days of the hose carts and engines. On 21 October the new engine company, W. H. Cooke, No. 5 and B. F. Lacca Hose Company had a brilliant torchlight: procession and parade to show off their repainted and refitted vehicles. They visit the homes of the men for whom the engine and, hose cart were named.

Preceded by the Whitehall Cornet band, they first went to W. H. Cooke's home where, led by their captain Thomas Lusk, they gave a rousing cheer. Mr. Cooke appearing on the piazza thanked them and said he had no hesitation in entrusting his untarnished name in their keeping, believing they would keep it unsullied. He presented them a beautiful bouquet and withdrew amid the playing of "Hail to The Chief"

The next stop was before the home of Benjamin F Lacca. Cheers were given him and he responded by inspecting the vehicles and presenting the treasurer a ten dollar bill. The procession then marched back down Canal Street with everyone satisfied.

The Whitehall Times

March 7, 1974

February 1874

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

This month there were two disastrous fires just a week apart in the village. On 5 Feb. the A. M. Hoit & Co.'s door factory on Canal (Broadway) Street burned. Early industries in Whitehall had to do with products made of wood. This mill was running full time with 20 men employed. Many large orders had been received and 2000 doors were in the mill in various stages of construction. A large supply of material was piled to the south of the building but it was not destroyed with the complete destruction of the structure.

The fire was discovered at 5 a.m. and by the time people arrived the whole building was enveloped. This factory was located on the east side of the street with the old canal to the west. Just opposite the street were the houses of William Hanna and J. H. H. Parke, the present Barkley and Jaworski homes.

These buildings smoked and steamed at the cornices, window blinds, and wooden casings. Men threw carpets on the inflammable portions as much as possible and kept them wet down with pails of water. To the north of the factory was a large tenement house belonging to William Walker with several families who were able to remove their belongings before the structure burned. On the canal five canal boats were destroyed. The names are interesting: The "Victorie" and "John-Yule" belonging to A.P. Cooke and the "Wave of Wilber" and "Joseph Cummings." This

A.P. Cooke and the owner of the factory, W. W. Cooke, were business men of the village at that time.

This was the first fire in the village for over a year and the fire department was rather out of practice." Independent Steamer and Steamer No. 3 took water from the canal and W. H. Cooke No. 5 from the village reservoir which was emptied in a few minutes. The first two had a long way to stretch their hoses and were half an hour in getting streams on the fire.

The loss was great. Especially the loss of employment to the men with families was regretted. Insurance did not cover the loss to the several owners.

The Whitehall Times
July 4, 1974

New Fire Company 1874
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A new fire company was formed called the Second Division of James Doren Hose Company No.1. A junior company, their uniforms were a dark blue cap with a wreath and figure 1 with gold bands, belt, blue shirts and black pants.

The Whitehall Times
June 2, 1988

Whitehall Chronicle – February, 1874
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

February 1874 was a month of several fires. On 13 February the Baptist Church burned at corner of Church (Broadway) and Division Streets from a defect in the chimney. This building had been the first Episcopal Church in Whitehall. The Baptist erected a new church on Williams Street. On 17 February a small barn in back of the French Church (on Church Street on present Longtin's lot). It spread to the Blakeslee's barn and on to the Methodist parsonage (on present site of the Methodist parsonage) burning only the woodshed and the kitchen. These fire engines with hose carts prevented a larger conflagration. That same night, fire took the Northern Transportation Line building north end of the tunnel and one of the dry sheds of Manville and Hall and Company's lumber yard. Again the fire companies saved the hotel known as Lake House. The sides of three cars on the railroad tracks were charred.

The Whitehall Independent
July 14, 1988

Whitehall Chronicle - September 1874
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Hose Company Rooms: In September 1874 the new rooms for the Doren Hose Company were opened in J. H. Parke's building at the corner of Canal and Clinton Streets. There were two rooms. The front was a reception room with carpeted floor, a piano, papered walls, a sofa and chairs. The back room was the meeting place. It isn't often that the rooms for the organizations are located.

The Whitehall Independent
June 4, 1986

The Fire Department - 1874
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Whitehall Steamer Company No. 3 was organized in 1870 but did not keep fire records until 1874. The records were kept by the Secretary of the Company from 1874 to 1897 in a somewhat facetious manner. The names of the companies taking part in the subjugation of the blazes, the location of the fire with owners or renter's names, and the insurance are given. These are some of the largest fires that caused a rearrangement of Whitehall.

In 1874 the Baptist Church burned at the corner of Division and Broadway, now the site of the Masonic Temple. Water was taken from the canal up Division Street to Fosdick Alley which ran in back of the church to Saunders Street. Besides the church, the Fosdick residence and tenements were destroyed.

In the same month of February the Northern Transportation Line barn, office, and shed on the opposite side of the street with cars on the switch burned. Manville, Hall and Company's shed filled with lath and shingles were saved. This was located on the west side of the harbor.

E. W. Hall's Anderson Hall building third floor was burned. This involved damage to a drug store, a boot and shoe store, a millinery, and the rooms of the Good Templars.

The largest fire in fifteen years occurred 28 August 1875 when two hotels were destroyed. The fire started in the Yule House basement at the corner of Bellamy Street and went north to Lake House. Both were completely lost with Delano's Saloon, Hall and Kittridge building, a blacksmith shop, and a meat market. Many other buildings in the vicinity were afire but were put out with pails of water, reminding one of what happened when the old Silk Mill burned. Saved were such places as the gas house, Gaylord's store, the Line barn, Mr. Gilligan's barn, and the Village Engine House. Although the exact locations were not given, the general part of the village is indicated south as far as High Street.

On 19 March 1876 the Hall House burned that site of many hotel names according to the change of ownership. The fire, spread rapidly through the walls and the building could not be saved. There was a bar building and a billiard building also. The bank that stood north at the corner of Saunders and Main lost its roof and two upper stories. The fire companies were called out on three days for this fire as it smoldered a long time. It was a cold Sunday night; the pictures of the fire show the ruins covered with ice.

The Adirondack Spring Company building burned 11 January 1882. This was located near the southern end of the present Riverside Park. This was a sad occasion for Foreman William Collins was killed when the whole gable of the south end of the building fell outward.

On 18 February 1886 the H. R. Wait Clothing and Carpet Store were burned. This was on the site of the present Barber Clothing Store. The fire spread north to the R. M. Witherbee Store into which the merchant had just moved. It had been the Vaughan House and the Grand Union hotels, on the site of Chase's present store. In between the

two was the Jillson building occupied by a liquor store. This was gutted. The outer walls built in 1819 are still in existence. Two stores north of Witherbee's, a fruit and vegetable store and Charles Quigley building were affected.

In this span of twenty three years, excepting the years 1883 and 1884 when no records were kept, there were 257 fires. The secretaries for these accounts were T. A. Paterson, E. C. Pratt, Norman E. Baker, George D. Cull, and S. A. Conery.

The Whitehall Independent June 11, 1886

The Fire Department – 1874 - 1894 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Mutual aid was practiced in the early years of the Department but how did the companies, using man power, reach the other towns?

On 1 October 1874, the president of Saratoga Springs telegraphed W. F. Bascom of Whitehall to help put out the fire of the Grand Union Hotel. A special train was soon ready with these companies ordered to Saratoga: Whitehall Steamer 3, Doren Hose Number 1 with two hose carts, and Lacca Hose Number 3 with one cart.

The train left Whitehall at 2:45 p.m. to be joined at Fort Edward by J. F. Harris Steamer Number 1 and Satterlee Hose. It reached Saratoga at 4:00 p.m. Their services were not needed as the Grand Union had burned to the ground and the fire was under control. At the fire also was Ballston Spa's Eagle Company and the Hugh Ranken Steamer of Troy. Whitehall's 100 men and Fort Edward's 70 were furnished supper at the Commercial Hotel and reached home at 9:00 p.m. This was Whitehall Steamer Number 3's first fire out of town.

At 3:30 p.m. 24 July 1875, the Fire Chief received a telegram from the Village of Fort Ann wishing that an engine and hose could be sent to a fire at Battle Hill Hotel. Whitehall Steamer 3 and the Doren and Lacca Hose were loaded on a train of cars and left Whitehall depot, and in fifteen minutes were at Fort Ann. In just fifteen minutes more the Steamer was unloaded and the hose lay with a stream on the ruins. The Battle Hill Hotel, a music store of E. K. Smith, a meat market, and a milling store were destroyed. Axtell's house and those of Earl and Skinner were badly damaged. The companies were invited to Breakfast and the 28 men left for home with the many thanks of the Fort Ann people.

On 24 January 1893 at 1:25 a.m., word was received that a dreadful fire was raging in Fair Haven and help was needed. Whitehall Steamer with Doren and Vannier Hose companies were ordered out. They got as far as the Depot when word was received that the fire was under control and so the Steamer returned to its house.

At 2 p.m. 31 May 1890 a telegram from Fort Ann told of a raging fire there and help was needed at once. Steamer 3 and Doren hose were ordered to go and in 29 minutes from the time the telegram was received everything was loaded on the cars ready to go, an excellent record. But after the cars had gone a short way in the yard and after staying

there an hour, word was received that the fire was out and services were no longer needed. The Steamer was unloaded and returned to the house.

When the fire occurred at the Yule and Lakes hotels, a call from Whitehall went to Rutland, as the thought was that it could not be controlled. But before the men left Rutland the fire was under control and their help was not necessary.

On 1 September 1894 the Wayside Inn on Turnpike Road was burned down. As it was some distance from the village, the Department did not respond. This was one of the oldest landmarks in the town, so the Secretary said. But where was it?

The Whitehall Times

November 30, 1975

November 1875

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Another big fire occurred this month .Two hotels were destroyed the Yule House and the Lake House. On the 1875 map the Yule House was located at the south corner of Canal Street and a Street to the north of Clinton Avenue the westward extension of which-was .Bellamy Street. The Lake House was across this street to the north, The Yule House was a four-story wooden building while the Lake House had three stories, also wooden. To the south of the Yule House, George Delano's restaurant was destroyed as was the Hall and Kittredge Hardware store opposite.

Great praise was given to the fire companies. In this fire a brick fell on Assistant Chief Luman Baker splitting his helmet. This white helmet was displayed at the recent Chamber of Commerce Banquet from Skenesborough Museum. During the month the Whitehall Engine and Company took a train to Fair Haven to help in fighting a fire there.

The Whitehall Times

January 4, 1973

A Salute to Firemen, 1876

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

This tribute written by the editor of The Whitehall Times, W, A. Wilkins, in 1876, is applicable today: "One thing Whitehall can boast of and that is its excellent fire department. When men stay out during driving storms, on cold nights, subject to soakings or liable to be injured or killed by falling debris, working to save property of others, without any compensation to themselves, we think that the same praises, sung to heroes who fight for their country's honor, can be worthily sung for the self-sacrificing firemen."

In March 1876 Fire Chief Charles Chapin and his assistant engineer, Robert Doig, Jr., made their report to the village trustees. It contained the companies then in existence with the property of each and the numbers of men.

Engine Hook and Ladder Co., G. G. Gaylord foreman, had 30 members. The apparatus was housed in the village building.

Whitehall Steamer No. 3 had W. F. Bascom as foreman.

Independent Steamer No. 1, with William Kana foreman, was housed in the village building. Its 28 members met in John Brett's building (present American Legion hall?),

The W. H. Cooke Engine Co., No. 5 was owned by a stock company, but it was kept in the village house at the depot. D. O. Gibbs was the foreman of 35 members plus five honorary members,

Torrent Engine Co., No. 1 has 21 members under P. Hoy. The members met in the Renois Building and the engine was housed in the old Independent House,

James Doren Hose Co., No. 1 kept its cart in the village building. Its 44 members met in J. H. H. Parke's building under J. H. Townsend,

B. F. Lacca Hose Co, No. 3 had 30 members with Thomas Lusk foreman, it met in the village building and housed its cart in the W. H. Cooke Engine House,

George Brett, Jr., Hose Co, No. 2 had its cart and hose in the village building and its hose carriage in the Torrent Engine House. Its 15 members under Martin Feely met in John Brett's.

A. C. Hopson Hose Co. No. 7 with foreman M. Belgrade had 33 members and housed its hose cart in the Torrent Engine House.

There was another Niagara hand engine unfit for use stored in Amos Morris barn.

Exclusive of the members of Whitehall Steamer No. 3, there were 236 active firemen in March, 1876. Some of the equipment listed was: Large hooks, grapples, picks, crow bars, pike poles, poles without pikes, drag ropes, signals, lanterns, rubber coats, paper, ice chisels, coal cart, pails, screw wrench, hose wrench, hose carts, hose carriages, leather hose, fire bats, ladders, ladder truck, branch cut off, and axes.

The rubber coats were numbered 1 to 12 and distributed among the companies. The chief engineer possessed a fire hat, belt, signal and fire trumpet while the assistant had a bat, belt and rubber coat. His lost trumpet was found in the Doren Hose Co. With this equipment which included 60 pieces of hose, 3000 feet, Whitehall's men fought the many fires, often incendiary in nature.

The report found the fire well at Gillmore and Smith streets full of water and the dock on the east side at the upper bridge in good condition. It suggested another fire well at First Avenue and Vaughn Street and another dock at the slaughter house of A. P. Carew. It also suggested that the lanterns be changed from sperm oil to kerosene and that iron brakes be covered with canvas or rags.

The late Mr. Manell of Queen Street told me of the keen rivalry among the hose companies, striving to be first with their carts at the fires.

The Whitehall Times
April 22, 1976

The Hall House Fire 100 Years Ago
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Fires often made headlines in the 19th century in Whitehall. One big one was the destruction of the Hall House on a Sunday evening, March, 1876, at 8 p.m.

The Hall House stood on the site of the present four buildings in the Main Street Historic District — Pippo's, Roselli's, Aiken's, and the old Burns news room. Attached to the Hall House on the north was the present National Bank, then known as the Merchants National Bank built in 1873. Rooms of the hotel were at the back of the bank.

People poured out of evening worship when they heard the fire alarm. The conflagration started in a second story bedroom on Saunders Street at the back of the bank building. The flames soon spread to the bedrooms above on the third floor and then down the hallway to the French roof of the main building. The slate of the Mansard roof fell into the street and the rest of the building was soon ablaze. The walls and the piazza presented a glittering sight as the great quantities of water poured on the flames froze into huge icicles.

None was injured in the fire and much personal property was saved by people dashing into the building to bring it out. The boarders of the hotel were transferred to the Hall Hotel on Williams street, the Opera House Hotel that is often confused with the Hall House. The next evening the fire burst forth again in the cellar as it had burned down to the bottle collection stored there.

The history of this 40-year old building was told in the Whitehall Times and again in the introduction of the Life in Whitehall in Ship Fever Times.

Hall's House was built in 1836 on the site of the Whitehall House which had burned in 1835. John Parke, its proprietor, called it the Anglo Saxon. In 1839 he leased it to Capt. Arch A. Ferris of Plattsburgh. He was succeeded by John Wood from Troy for two years. In 1843 Whitehaller Joseph Allen leased it for five years. Samuel Jillson owned it for a year and sold it in 1849 to brothers E. K. and A. Scovil who made extensive alterations and opened it as the United States. In 1851 it was run by a Mr. Potter, followed by John C. Parke who changed its name to the Parke House. He was followed by George Phetaplace from Sandy Hill and in 1860 by J. C. Marsden. In 1861 Joseph Allen remodeled the inside and leased it but finally sold his lease to J. W. Ingalls and Elisha Scott in 1865. Ingalls and Scott purchased the property from John H. H. Parke. Two years later it became the Knight House. Charley Knight sold to John W. Smith of Massachusetts who after six months sold it to the Hall brothers. It was opened as the Hall House. In 1873 Mr. Hall added a third story and the French roof.

Under the last owner the business was thriving and the building has increased in value. Mr. Hall stated his intention to rebuild as soon as the insurance business was attended to but his plans did not materialize. John H. Sullivan was happy to find a good location to build his business uptown. The other three buildings were soon constructed south of it.

The Whitehall Times
April 29, 1976

Fire Department in 1876
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

After the fire that destroyed the Hall House and immediately after one that destroyed the Chapin Block at the Corner of Chapin Alley and now Broadway. **The Whitehall Times**, said, and it's still true, "One thing Whitehall can boast of and that is its excellent fire department. When men stay out during driving storms, on cold nights subject to soaking or liable to be injured or killed by falling debris, working to save the property of others, without any compensation to themselves, we think the same praises sung to the heroes who fought for our country's honor, can be worthily sung for these self-sacrificing firemen."

This was the fire department of 1876:

Empire Hook and Ladder Co. 1; P. P. Gaylord, foreman; 30 active members. Steamer in village building. Meeting room in John Brett's building (American Legion).

W.H. Cooke Engine Co. No. 5. O. D. Gibbs, foreman; 35 active members. Engine housed in village house at the depot. Meeting room in village building.

Torrent Engine Co. No. 1., P. Hoy, foreman; 21 active members. Meeting room in Renois Building (corner of Saunders and Main Streets). Engine housed in old Independent House. Where? When they reorganized in 1882, they met in O. F. Davis Hall on Broad (Main) Street.

James Doren Hose Co. No. 1, J. H. Townsend. foreman: 44 active members. Property housed in village building. Meeting room in J. H. H. Parke's building (first building on Centre Street, north of High Street).

B. F. Lacca Hose Co. No. 3. Thomas Lusk. foreman; 30 active members. Property housed in W. B. Cooke Engine House. Meeting room with W. B. Cooke's in village building.

George Brett Jr., Hose Co. No. 2. Martin Feeley. foreman; 15 active members. Cart and hose in village building. Carriage in Torrent Engine House. Meeting rooms in John Brett's.

A.C. Hopson Hose Co. No. 7. M. Belgard; foreman; 33 active members. Property housed in Torrent Engine House.

Some of the property listed in this report were grapples, hooks, crocks, pike poles, leather and paper buckets, drag wheels, wrench boxes, fire trumpets.

A hose company "ran" with a hose cart which supplied the fire engine with hose for the water. The members were sponsored by a prominent citizen of the community who often supplied them with uniforms and properties but the firemen held many benefits for themselves.

In 1876 James Doren was a furniture dealer and undertaker in the Doren Block on Williams Street. (Whitehall Shirt Factory, Scott, Girl Scouts)

Benjamin F. Lacca of Erwin and Lacca was one of the owners of a firm that manufactured moldings and casings.

George Brett was a dealer in lumber, shingles and lath in the firm of Brett, Spooner and Co.

A.C. Hopson was a carpenter and builder, architect for a large number of the brick buildings in Main Street Historic district and around the village.

In 1959 two hose houses were still standing, to my knowledge. One was north of Frank Kingsley's law office and the other, converted to a garage, on Skene Street near the corner of Wheeler Avenue. Others mentioned in "A Short History of the Whitehall Volunteer Fire Department," still in print, were: Site of old 'Flatiron building about where the triangle south of Lock 12 is; on Main street just south of the Whitehall Lumber Company; another just opposite this one.

The James Doren Hose Co. No. 1 had badges made from the War of 1812 warship Confiance that was so long in Whitehall Harbor. Since this company disbanded as late as 1913 there may be some of these badges still around.

The Whitehall Times **April 29, 1976**

Fire Department in 1876 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

The members of the Geo. Brett Jr. Hose Co. No. 2 made arrangements with C. H. Lotrace of this place for the manufacture of a new cart to be used for racing at hose tournaments. The jumper had two wheels six feet in circumference with a tongue and a wrench box attached. It weighed 200 pounds at a cost of \$175. When finished, it was the best jumper in Washington County. This was the cart drawn by the famous team who won so many races at the Tri-County Fire Association meetings.

The Whitehall Times **May 1, 1980**

Brett Hose Company Classic of 1877 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

On 12 Sept. 1877, Whitehall boys took part in a sports event that set a world's record. It was in the days of the runners, and walkers when both men and women held marathons in rivalry with other villages and towns in such contests.

Equipment of fire departments in the era before mechanization was composed in part of hose carts that were "run" to fires by volunteer teams of men formed in hose companies. These groups took their names from the patron who sponsored them, providing uniforms and other largesse. Such a company was the George Brett, Jr., Hose Company, with William Kana, foreman, and A. McNeeley, secretary. The Brett Hose Company became adept at running and performing feats allied to the duties of firemen.

They built up a national reputation and others were eager to compete with them. Spectators came from long distances to watch them. Many professionals were hired by rival teams.

The Brett Hose Company was composed of home town boys William and Fenton Kana, Michael Flannery, Patrick Cronin, Alexander McNeeley, Wilfred Vannier, Martin Feely, Andrew Whalen, Patrick Kana and Oscar Scott, always ready to compete.

They took part in a contest at Plattsburgh 12 Sept. 1877. The contest was to run with the cart a quarter of a mile to a hydrant, string 300 feet of hose and attach the pipe in competition with such rival companies as Burlington, Saratoga and Port Henry.

Seventeen started the contest but only five men finished the grueling race. William Kana, Oscar Scott, Alex Mc Neely and Martin Feely were on the ropes. Wilfred Vannier was the pipe man; he dived at the cart, reached the hose and managed to make the coupling before he fell exhausted.

The time for the run was one minute better than the nearest team. An error was made when the judges awarded the victory to the Burlington Boxers, but the error was soon corrected and the company knew the music of bands and the screaming of the rooters were for them. They had made a world record that still stood when the Whitehall Fire Department owned a fire truck and the hose carts were a thing of the past in 1914.

The victors arrived at Whitehall the next morning; on the tug boat Malineux when only young boys were on hand to escort them to their rooms. It was not the day of instant replay, but the boys were not without honor for the pictures of this winning team were plentiful.

The Whitehall Times **August 30, 1979**

The Village in the 1870's (*December 1877*) **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

A hurrah in a hornet's nest? What really happened?

On 11 December 1877 the chief engineer of the fire department preferred charges against the Independent Steamer Fire Company No. 1 for not being present at the annual parade and inspection, for ungentlemanly conduct at the fire 6 December, and for abandoning the engine before the fire was extinguished. He recommended that the company be disbanded.

At the, same meeting the chief engineer also preferred charges against the Brett Hose company for their unbecoming conduct at the same fire and being a disgrace to the fire department. The members had not been in condition to take charge of the hose long before the fire was extinguished and left the hose on the ground. The engineer asked the board to deal with the company as they thought fit.

An odd thing about this action is that The Whitehall Times carried no mention of such actions in reporting a fire on 6 December, the only one mentioned at that time. It was in a store occupied by Lemon Barrett and owned by the Boyd Estate. The paper

reported that the ‘fire department responded with its usual promptness and when the fire broke out again it responded again.”

The action of the board on 11 December was to disband the Independent Company and place it in charge of the chief engineer and empowered him to furnish a company in case of a fire until another company could be procured for the steamer. On 25 December citizens presented an application containing 36 names asking permission to take charge of the Independent Steamer. It was laid on the table. On 8 January 1878 the list of names was referred the chief and fire department. On the 22 January the board assigned the steamer to the company suggested before under the direction of J. M. Wood who had belonged to Whitehall Steamer Company No. 3 and was given a discharge from that company. In April Independent Steamer Company No. 1 asked for a meeting room. Evidently the company was in again.

Concerning the Brett Hose Company the board decided to call the company before the next board meeting. After delays, on 8 January 1878 the charges against the Brett Hose were dismissed. A resolution was passed at the same time that read. Any fireman who is known to be intoxicated or who knowingly and willfully destroys any property belonging to the village, to firms, or to individuals at a fire shall be discharged from the department

During December the announcements of the activities of the various fire organizations were being made. The Grand Ball of the Brett Hose Company was to be held on 21 December; W. H. Cooke Engine Company No. 5 and P. F. Lacca Hose Company’s Grand Balls were to be held on Christmas Eve, and the Feely Hose Company’s Fireman’s Ball on New Year’s. The Griswold Hall was the popular place for all these balls.

The Whitehall Independent December 16, 1987

Fire Alarm Bell (1878) Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Village Building was completed in the fall of 1870 at a cost of \$10,902.33. The engine house occupied the building. On 11 October 1878 William Sinnott was appointed to purchase “fire alarm bells” This he did from the Meneely and Kimberley Bell Company in Troy, the same firm that provided the school bell in Central Building in 1874.

On 23 November 1878 the bell was put in position on the south side of the building on Saunders Street. Chief Engineer Charles Chapin had placed on the Saunders Street Bridge a cannon found a few years before in Whitehall Harbor, probably used in the Revolution or the War of 1812. At 10 o’clock Chief Chapin addressed the firemen and citizens around the engine house. Then he broke a bottle of wine on the bell and christened it, “The Firemen’s Bell of Whitehall.” The bell was rung by John Townsend and Charles Farmer for an hour, the sound of the clanging echoing around the Village. The inscription on the bell read: 1878, Village of Whitehall, followed by the names of the trustees.

On 13 December 1878 an order for \$500 was made to pay for the bell. Many wanted the honor of ringing the bell the first time for a fire. T. A. Paterson, a long time Whitehall fireman, came home from Fort Edward on the train. That night a fire broke out and he was the envy of many when he rang the bell for all his worth for the first time since its installation.

When Lock 12 was constructed and the canal moved into Wood Creek, the construction progress affected the eastern end of the Village Building. The walls of that section were so badly damaged that the whole end had to be taken down. The bell tower was on the top front of the building. It would be well to know what happened to it. Below the bell tower was a clock. A man was supposed to keep it in running order. When the ladies of the Civic League were first active, one service they performed was to get the clock, going again. When it was removed is a question now but it is known that the clock went to the belfry of the Presbyterian Church and later removed from there by Theodore Sachs and his son and placed in Skene Manor. We now see the face of that clock facing over the village.

The Whitehall Times

July 3, 1980

Fireman's Muster 1880

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

(Note: A photo accompanied this article but it was dark and I was unable to reproduce it. It's caption is shown here)

DOLLED UP FOR VISITING FIREMEN

This was not the preparation for the firemen's muster here 100 years ago, but for a convention in the early 1900's. Photo does show firemen's arch and banner in which buildings were decorated.

Long before sunrise on 4 July 1880 Whitehall woke up to the firing of cannon, moans of foghorns, ringing of bells, exploding of torpedoes and Chinese fire crackers.

The north end of the village was already decorated — Stars and Stripes flew from Cain's Sail Loft (on west side of the harbor), Baldwin's Dry Goods Store, Burleigh Corps Armory (Anderson hall), Odd Fellows rooms with a white banner with insignias, the village hall. On the east side J. C. Chapman had a flag flying on each side of his building.

At 7:30 canal traffic was active with a vessel decorated for the occasion. On board were Greenwich Union Engine and Hose Companies with a brass band of 18 men. Salem came to town with her Union Engine and Hose Company with 50 men, John Larman, foreman, and 40 guest Rutland at 9:30 came with Nicwachett Engine Company with 82 men and 12 guests, A. Austin foreman; Sheldon Hose with 20 men, G. L. Young, foreman; Union Hook and Ladder, 30 men and 4 guests, John Crowley, foreman; Hannaka Hose with 20: men, Joseph McGirk foreman. At 11:30 Witherbee Hose with 20 men came from Port Henry.

The procession formed at 10 a.m. and at 11 the march began under command of Chief Engineer Bascom and Assistant Townsend. To all the guest engines and hose

companies were added Whitehall's Cornet Band of 15 men; the Burleigh Corps, 56 men; O. A. Whitehall Veterans, 40 men; Empire Hook and Ladder No. 1, 25 men; James Doren Hose Company, 20 men; Whitehall Steamer Co. No. 3, 26 men; Independent Steamer company, No. 1; 25 men; B. F. Lacca Hose, 23 men; W. H. Cook's Engine Company, 22 men; A. C. Hopson Hose, 15 men; W. F. Bascom Engine Company, 25 men. The engines and hose carts were drawn by horses, all elegantly decorated with flowers and bunting.

The line of march was up Williams Street to D. C. Percival's, across to Mountain Street, down Mountain to Poultney Street, across to Canal (Broadway), up Canal to Col. A.C. Hopson's, continued up canal to Broad to the lower bridge, across the bridge to Williams, thence to the place of beginning. "It was the best parade ever witnessed; everyone conducted himself in a gentlemanly manner.

The streets were literally packed. Cannon boomed, firecrackers popped, the sweet dulcet tones of the lemonade man enticed the wayfarer. Patriotism was unadulterated.

A comic event occurred. A judge's platform of several two inch planks on top of two wooden horses was erected about 7-8 feet high. Representatives of all the places were seated on it. A sudden crack was heard and 15 men were seen to pick themselves up with bruised shins and scratched knees. A new lower platform was erected and seven judges determined awards for the engine and hose trials. The hose prize of \$100 went to Port Henry and two engine prizes of \$200 each went to Salem and Greenwich.

It rained but that did not stop the firemen's ball held at the Opera House in the evening.

The Whitehall Times
June 23, 1983

June 1883
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The fire organizations were deep in the social season. Brett Hose Company was having a series of social parties in the John Brett Building (American Legion). Steamer Company 3 was having an excursion on Lake Champlain to Basin Harbor on board the barge J. H. Hooker towed by steamer R. B. Cook.

The Whitehall Times
June 23, 1983

June 1883
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The fire department report said the Old Torrent was in fine working order, the Niagara hand engine worthless, and the W. H. Cooke engine in perfect order. The W. H.

Cooke Company and Lacca Hose were ready to do all they could in case of fire. The Village granted \$75 per annum to each company and recommended Torrent be placed somewhere without ground rent.

The Whitehall Independent **January 29, 1986**

A Fire in 1886 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

One of the largest fires in Whitehall occurred 16 February 1886. This was at Myers Corners at the junction of Canal and Broad Street, now Main and North Main. The cause of the fire was at first deemed arsonic, later accidental, but still later suspicious. At 12:45 a.m. people were roused from their beds by the sounds of John Chapman's horn and the shrieks of the depot steam whistle. The bell on the village hall clanged into alarm. They saw billows of smoke and sheets of flame poured from H. R. Wait's building of carpets, clothing, boots and shoes that stood on the site of the present Barber's Clothing store.

As the people watched, the fire spread from floor to floor and all the contents, worth thousands, were aflame. Mr. Wait had been having a great sale in reparation of leaving Whitehall and conducting a carpet business in Auburn. The front part of the store had three stories of brick and stone while the back was one large wooden story the height of the first two stories. The building was hemmed in by the adjoining buildings of the old Grand Union Hotel of five stories that had recently become the store of R. M. Witherbee and the Myers building and Old National Bank that stood at the south, It was difficult for the fire department to reach the blaze.

Eight streams of water were played on the floors and the people were happy that the streams from the hydrants worked well. There had been a great controversy over the recent water works. But in spite of the efforts the fire jumped to the Witherbee Building on the site of the present Chase store across the low Jillson building that stood between. With a west wind the hot coals fell on the wooden buildings across the creek. Luckily these had been soaked by a rain the night before. The wooden structure of the Witherbee store had been a source of dread to the property owners in the neighborhood. It took two hours until the fairly new water works and the persistence of the pipe holders conquered the flames but with a terrible loss of the three buildings that covered a half acre of ground.

The walls of the Wait building stood; the first floor of the lower Jillson building had not burned; the Witherbee walls fell in and its front wall was pulled down. Clouds of smoke and steam rose from this part of the street for some time.

Details of the events during the fire were remembered. Will Cooke, the guard of the Old National Bank, first gave the alarm. The clerks who last left the store at closing time had noticed nothing amiss. Chief engineer Gaylord and his Assistant Vannier were extremely efficient at the fire. The Village Trustees promptly pulled down the dangerous walls. Walter N. Weeks and Mr. and Mrs. John Davey furnished coffee to the firemen.

Later when the ruins cooled down, Captain Jack Reed took Wait's safe out to open it. Beside it was found a new chisel which aroused the suspicion that the store had been robbed and then set fire to. But the evidence had been destroyed.

The Whitehall Times **March 29, 1984**

The Fire of 1886 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Whitehall has sustained several disastrous fires. Among them are the fire of 1860 that destroyed all the Village and town records; the - 1864 fire that leveled the large manufacturing center on the east side of the canal; the 1876 that took the famous landmark hotel of many names; and the 1886 that destroyed the H. R. Wait Company and the Witherbée grocery store at Myers Corner.

The headlines for this last fire were sensational: Destructive Conflagration, The elements Succumb to Our Splendid Water Works, A Stubborn Fight, But Water Works Victorious, Whitehall's Noble Fire Department Secures a Victory.

The write-up of the event had an almost short story effect: At 12:45 a.m., people were aroused from their beds by the ominous sound of John Chapman's horn, followed by shrieks of the depot steam whistle, the village bell soon joining the chorus with its startling clang, clang. The awakened citizens poured into the streets. The flames were casting grim shadows on Skene Mountain and dense volumes of smoke were flowing out of H. R. Wait's clothing, carpet, boot and shoe house, at the corner of Canal and Broad streets. The interior of the Wait Building was a mass of fire. Flames leaped from floor to floor and the entire building, with its many thousands of dollars worth of choice goods, suddenly became a seething furnace.

Only recently had a battle been conducted over a new water works. The several hose companies were able to soon have eight streams of water on the flames, and the water supply was adequate to extinguish the fire, in spite of the wind from the west that fanned the flames. The fire was prevented from spreading from the corner stores because of a recent rain that had dampened the roofs.

The fire started in H. R. Wait's Carpet Store on the site of the present Barber Clothing Store. There were three low stories of brick and stone but at the back was a large story built of wood the same height as the first and second stories. This wood was as dry as tinder, as was the back of Witherbee's building, which had formerly been converted into five stories of bedrooms at the time it was the Grand Union Hotel. In between these two buildings was the brick triangular Jillson Store. These two buildings were on the site of the present store of Chase's.

The next morning the walls of Wait's building were still standing. The south and north walls of Witherbee's fell in and the village authorities pulled down the front wall. The Miss Jillson building's first story was not entirely ruined.

The origin of the fire was shrouded. No clue was found, as all traces were wiped out although some thought a new chisel found by the safe in Wait's the next day

indicated incineration - but if it went through the fire, how could it have been designated a new?

This account tells of the business in Myers corner, which will be listed later.

The Whitehall Times **July 14, 1983**

Destruction of the Grand Opera House March 1, 1886 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

For eleven years Whitehall citizens attended the Grand Opera House on Williams Street to see and hear outstanding artists in drama, concerts, lectures, and oratorical programs. But on Monday March 1, 1886 disaster struck and the beautiful building was destroyed by fire, one of the great disastrous fires in Whitehall. The last entertainment in the house was the Veteran's Ball. Many engagements had been booked.

At 2:45 a.m. the house was in flames, within fifteen minutes of the fire alarm the roof fell in and with only one brick thickness the side walls soon collapsed. Ten streams of water were directed upon it under Chief Engineer Gaylord and Assistant Chief Vannier's directions, but the fire had gotten between the floor and ceiling of the three stories. All this happened during a frigid northern storm and the water froze wherever it fell outside the fire.

Neighboring buildings were in danger but the supply of water from the new water works and the valiant work of the firemen saved them. The A. C. Hopsons and the C. J. Burdetts constantly served hot coffee to the men.

Edwin W. Hall's loss, of course, was the greatest. Nearby houses were endangered. A. C. Hopson, the architect across the alley. Ernest Ames, Hinman Skeels, Mrs. Thomas, C. J. Burdette, Mrs. Bary, and John Ryan made ready to evacuate. John Knight's house was almost entirely destroyed. Charles H. Lotraces rowboat shop behind the Opera House, John Ryan's ice house, Mrs. Gaylord's barn were destroyed.

Mr. Hall was called from Truthville. Unable to have insurance, Mr. Hall stated that he probably would rebuild the hotel for which Whitehall had need. The building of the Opera House was financially impossible, however because his plans were for a larger and more extensive hotel.

There is in existence a register of the Hall Opera House Hotel, part of which someone used as a scrapbook! Its entries are of interest, listing names of persons who stopped overnight or for a meal or two. Travel was not as easy even in the late 80's from town to town so there are many entries from Rutland, Glens Falls, and other nearby villages.

The Whitehall Times
July 31, 1986

100 Years Ago in Whitehall, 1886
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Lineman's Annual Parade was held 2 September. There were five adult hose companies and a juvenile company, the C.A.L. Hose, whose boys dressed in white shirts having a jumper trimmed with evergreens and flowers. The Whitehall and Independent steamers and the Empire Hook and Ladder were drawn by teams of horses. Editorial comment stated: "Very few towns and counties can surpass Whitehall in the superiority of its fire department." The parade, following the same route parades do today, was followed by a foot race of 100 yards with popular racers, Frank Robetor, Oscar Scott, Charley Grant and Joseph Jemery, coming in that order. After that Vannie Hose and Church Hose had a hub and hub race for 600 feet. Vannie as the winner.

The Whitehall Times
February 19, 1987

Whitehall 1887
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The H. J. Church Hose Company changed its name to F. H. Gaylord Hose Company No. 5 after the present efficient chief of the fire department. The village trustees changed the hand engine of the W. H. Cooke for a new hose cart like the Burleigh Hose cart, which was given the name of F. H. Gaylord Hose Company No. 3.

The Whitehall Times
April 16, 1987

Whitehall 1887
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

At a meeting of the Burleigh Hose Company in August the Order American Linemen was organized. It was a local council to organize a National Brotherhood of Firemen to secure aid for each in case of sickness and injuries and to provide for the helpless widows and orphans in case of death.

The Whitehall Times
July 29, 1976

Tri-County Firemen's Association Meetings in 1890's
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In the 1890's Tri-county Firemen's Association held great meetings with parades, games, contests, banquets and speeches. In 1897 this was a response to a toast at a banquet held in Whitehall by James A. Holden:

Here, tonight, where once the serried hosts
Of armed invaders, from the English coasts
Encamped, and feasted, while they planned
Their futile projects to enslave our land:
Where once the redmen found their forest fare
And battled with the lynx or bear,
Or, tireless, chased the antlered deer
Through busky copse and covert far and near:

With subtle skill and deadly savage craft
Unerring, launched the feathered shaft;
Here, where the dappled fawns once fearless played
Beneath the all pervading forest shade
This sylvan scene from memory's golden mine,
Evolved like fantasies from Time's old wine,
Has vanished as the morning's mist, and place
Gives to new creations of our day and race.

Tonight, no army seeks its tents to pitch,
Upon thy fields thous pleasant village —
Rich in History's legends, facts and olden lore
About events occurring at thy very door
In by-gone days, when our land unfurled
Its starred defiance to the world;
And won through patriots' blood its crest
Its title proud of "Empire of the West.

Nay — rather things of peaceful gist we sing,
This band whose friendly greeting here I bring.
These earnest comrades, who have come today
As members of the T. C. F. A.
And, where the Indians' pipe of peace
Once went its solemn rounds of hands, to cease
The strife of tribes, or nations far apart,
We come to greet you with thankful heart.

That we, these comrades from the Counties three
Can extend the hand clasp of fraternity,
And join in one unbroken, charming round
Of pleasantries on this historic ground.
All through the year on serious matters bent,
Or doing duty with our hearts intent,
Unbending for the mimic strife, and play,
We celebrate this firemen's holiday.

A growing threefold cord are we, my friends,
Whose ties a common certain purpose blends
(To keep our human hearts from growing old)
Into one powerful chain with links of gold,
Whose name is Brotherhood, a sacred trust.
Imposed on all who share the parent dust
From which we spring, to which we all return,
As we have lived, our destiny to earn.

To plan to fight a common foe we meet,
The powerful King of Fire, the Prince of Heat;
And in the prudent measures we devise
Our strength and power against our foeman lies.
May this association then of ours
Grow daily in important scope and powers.
May all its members active, year by year,
Wherever living, whether far or near,
Be spared to meet for profitable talks,
Along the lines their eager interest walks.

And conquer, not alone the fiery foe
We aim and strive to overthrow.
But may each comrade never once forget
The principles of right before him set.
Although, for Balaclava's field of might
They decorated heroes with medals bright
To face the fire, and rescue life may be,
Needs more courage than a charge of Cavalry.

So what e'er betide and wherever found,
The blue ocean o'er or the world around
Be true to every comrade you may meet
Be brave and true to every right complete,
True to yourselves on every hand
True to your God and your native land,
And may all the blessings He can send

Be with you now, and henceforth to the End
And at last, may we meet beyond that sea.
Where partings never, never more may be.

The Whitehall Independent
March 14, 1984

Early Months of 1894
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Following the fire department's growth and variations would be an interesting search. Engine companies and hose companies changed often, rose and fell. This is the annual report of them in January 1884:

The organizations and number of men; Chief engineer (1), Thomas A. Patterson; Assistant chief (1), John H. Townsend; Empire Hook and Ladder Co. No.1, 20; Whitehall Steamer Co. No. 3, 35; Independent Steamer Co., 30; W. H. Cook Engine No. 5, 0; W. F. Bascom Engine No. 1, 0; James Doren Hose Co. No. 1, 20; B. F. Lacca Hose Co. No. 3, 15; H. G. Burleigh Hose Co. No. 7, 20. Total: 142 men. There were 2500 feet of hose in good order: The companies had attended four fires, but one was not played on, as it was unable to get the water:

Niagara Engine No. 2, operated by W. H. Cook & Son was given away last summer by the president of the village. W. F. engine was placed in a shed of the New York and Lake Champlain Transportation Company on the bar. These two were inactive and a suggestion was made that certificates be given for five years of service and the companies taken from the Fire Department roll.

The Whitehall Times
April 4, 1985

The Fire Department in 1896
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Wouldn't it be nice if we had one of the hose carts that were in use at the end of the nineteenth century? Or I'd settle for pictures of the companies that existed at that time. Some families must have some that could be copied.

On Labor Day 7 September 1896, the Whitehall Fire Department held an inspection. It consisted of a parade along a muddy route, but that didn't stop the doughty firemen.

The route lay from the Village Building north to the lower bridge to Canal Street (present Main and Broadway before the railroad alignment which cut Canal in two) and as far as Boardman Street. Across that they proceeded to Williams Street and north of that to the Village Building, almost the same route still used today.

The line was led by Michael Bellegarde, Chief, and Semour Conery, assistant chief, with the Poultney Band. After that came the fire companies hose carts and engines. The numbers in the companies perhaps explain why there were so many of them. The first division Whitehall Steamer Co. No. 3 had 25 men, followed by the James Doren Hose with 15 men, H. H. Burleigh with 15, and Mahan with 14.

The section was led by the Independent Steamer No. 1 and the Torrent Engine with its own engine company. The boys' companies followed with the George Brett, Jr. and E. P. Manville Hose companies. In the last section were the Empire Hook and Ladder Company.

The hose carts were decorated, especially the Doren, Burleigh, and Mahan companies. This was an occasion when the ladies of the village furnished floral bouquets for the bells of the fire trumpets.

After the serious display of the fire department came the fun time. There was a hub and hub race between Burleigh Hose with 16 men and James Doren Hose with 14. The course ran from Saunders north to the Post Office. Burleigh won for a prize of three dollars.

This was followed by the foot race over the same course won by Fred Dufresne for two dollars and Albert Lester second for one dollar. The boys' race ran from the Post Office to the Commercial Hotel on Broad Street. The boys, Fred Dufresne, William King, and William Case received respectively, fifty cents, thirty cents, and twenty cents.

The day's festivities ended with throwing water by Steamers Independent and Whitehall No. 3.

All fire companies were not housed in the Village Building but were scattered around the Village in hose houses. Meetings were held in rooms around the village. The Torrent Engine and the hook and ladder are preserved in Skenesborough Museum.

The Whitehall Times February 27, 1985

The Fire Department - 1902 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A concert and ball program of the S. Mahan Hose Company No. 2 was given us for the files recently by Leola McKee. It is a small 3 by 4 inch item used on a gala occasion in 1902. From it can be told the, possible year of organization of the officers of that fire company, the workers from the floor committee, and even some of the guests from the dance list. The names of the dances — who remembers the Two Step, Portland Fancy, Lancier's, Quadrille, Money Must?

Although such items one finds tucked away may, be worn, torn, dirty, or chewed, they can still be used to tell parts of the history of the town.

The Whitehall Times
January 28, 1988

The Fire Department Quarters - 1906
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

With all the hose company carts engines that existed in Whitehall, one wondered where they were stored. When the village hall was constructed it was the storage place for the department apparatus. A description of it in 1906 tells this about a picture of the building.

The farthest door on the Saunders Street side lead up stairs to the public hall on the second floor and to a number of rooms in the third story used by the different hose companies. This side of that door is a large double door which leads to a room in which was kept Steamer 3 and several hose carts. The double door at the front lead to another room in which was kept the Independent Steamer, the Hook and Ladder truck and other hose carts and five apparatus.

Hose companies had their ups and downs in organization and reorganizations. Any in existence in 1913 was disbanded when the Whitehall Fire Department came into existence.

George Brett Jr. Hose Co. - 1874 from Niagra Hose Co. became 1885 N.U. Vannier Hose Co. 1892 Sylvester Mahan Hose Co. No. 2.

H. G. Burleigh Hose Co. No.7 - 1883 (?) from A. C. Hopson Co. No. 7 to 1913.

H. J. Church Hose Co. No. 5 - 1884 -1887 became F. H. Gaylord Hose Co. No. 5 1892 became E.P. Newcomb Hose Co. Citizens Hose Co. No. 6 1904-1912.

S. H. Donaldson Hose Co. - 1889 from O. A. Manville Hose Co. No. 1, James Doren Hose Co. No. 6 1872-1913

F. H. Gaylord Hose Co. - 1887 from H. J. Church Hose Co. No. 5 1890 became E.P. Newcomb Hose .Co.

A. C. Hopson Hose Co. No. 7 - 1875 1883 became H. G. Burleigh Hose Co. No. 7. B. F. Lacca Hose Co.

Sylvester Mahan Hose Co. No. 2 - 1892 from M. U. Vanner Hose Co.

O. A. Manville Hose Co. No. 3 - 1889 became S. H. Donaldson Hose Co. No. I.

E. P. Newcomb Hose Co. - 1890 from F. H. Gaylord Hose Co.

Niagara Hose Co. No. 2 one of earliest companies 1874 became George Brett Jr. Hose Co.

Junior Torrent Hose Co.

J.H. Townsend Hose Co. No. 7 - 1875.

Vannier Hose Co. - 1885 from George Brett Jr. Hose Company became 1892 Sylvester Mahan Hose Co. No. 2.

The Whitehall Times
April 13, 1978

A Fire of 1912
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



A picture of a fire in the post office display was erroneously labeled as the Commercial House fire of 1919. Spotted and reported by George King and Len Bartholomew, the location of the building was found with other pictures to support it.

On 10 June 1976 The Whitehall Times, in their column information about the lot on which this building stood was that it was purchased by H. A. Griswold, a noted jeweler for over 40 years. In another picture his trade mark is shown by the big watch that hung before his door. Over the second story window is a dentist sign. In the 1870's through 1890 the dentists listed were William Smith and Dr. Twitcher but the location of neither was given.

In 1912 a fire occurred that did not entirely level the building. Construction produced the two buildings that now occupy the spot, admirably adapted to the rest of the architecture in the block.

The building to the south had a variety of occupants. As shown in the picture it was at one time the Grand Union Hotel which had its own bus that met trains.

Various remodeling produced the building of Edward Chase on which the original architectural features have been kept.

The Whitehall Times
February 25 1968

The Fire Department - 1913
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

After some history of the early hose and engine companies before the reorganization of the fire company might be interesting as it goes back to 1913. Many remember those men who spent nights at the fire house to be ready for a conflagration.

The Whitehall Times of 1914 gave this account. The Whitehall Fire Department, one of the most efficient in the state was reorganized 15 April 1913. At that time a new Webb Combination Chemical and Hose Auto was purchased from Allentown, Pa. A most modern piece of equipment, it weighed six tons and had 60 horsepower. Capable of climbing the hills in the village and reached the street from the time of alarm in one minute. The department occupied new quarters on Canal Street (now Broadway) equipped with all modern appliances known for fire fighting. The building is 40 x 90 feet on two floors. The ground floor had space for the motor truck, the steamer, the ladder truck, and hose wagon. On the second floor were the chief's office, club rooms, dormitory, bath and store rooms, with all modern equipment, including hot water plant and bathroom. The building was erected by J. Fred Archer of Glens Falls.

The Whitehall Chronicle of 1931 gave a description of the department on its 18th anniversary. It had been organized June 1913 with Charles Grant as chief and John C. Inglee as assistant chief. Inglee was commander at its 18th year of the original appointee's only William Mason remained with Inglee.

The first call men were John C. Inglee, Alfred Caprood, Joseph H. Jemery, Gordon Terry, and William Mason. In 1931 the call men were William Mason, Fred Combs, Noah Raymond, Lawrence T. Inglee, Albert Briggs, Kenneth Terry and Pliney Goodrow.

Going back to the time of construction the trustees were C. E. Holden, H. E. Sullivan, Dr. A. E. Falkenbury, William Cronin, and John O'Neil. Commissioners over the years were H. E. Sullivan, J. H. Burdett Sr., C. E. Holden, Claude Havens, S. W. Freeman, Louis Royal and Harvey S. Scism.

In 1931 the fire department equipment consisted of three pieces of motor driven apparatus, a pumper having a total of 756 gallons per minute, a modern hook and ladder truck, and a chemical vehicle. At this time the village also had more than 2,000 feet of double jacket fire hose.

Over fifty years later now, Whitehall's fire department has grown in numbers of buildings, machines, men and changed from a paid department to volunteers. Whitehall is indeed blessed with dedicated citizens.

Geology

The Whitehall Independent
January 14, 1987

A Whitehall Heritage - 1812
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Whitehall has a unique geological formation in Skene Mountain. Citizens are so used to it that it ceases to be an uncommon thing but it was a rarity to travelers in early times.

An unnamed visitor in 1812 wrote this description: "At Granville we quitted the main road to go to Whitehall to take advantage of the sleighing on the lake. The valley closes as you approach Whitehall until its lofty barriers leave only space for the site of the village and the course of a small river called Wood Creek, which rushes into the lake over a small cascade. Its right bank rises perpendicularly several hundred feet in strata of dark gray limestone deposited in regular parallels which exhibit an appearance of masonry so perfect as to require a second glance to convince one a wall is not built up from the bed of the stream. The heights on the opposite side of the valley are equally bold and marked with the same characteristics. The village resembled a large timber yard from the quantity of wood that was cut up and scattered around for the purpose of building."

Skene Mountain is what is known as a block mountain, so called because of its shape. It belongs to the Appalachian chain of mountains while across Wood Creek to the west the mountains belong to the Adirondacks. Skene Mountain is composed mainly of limestone overlying granite.

As you go along North Williams Street and around the mountain, take time to look at the layers that really do look like man made structures.

Another traveler in 1818 describes Wood Creek. "Muddy Wood Creek on its way toward the Gulf of St. Lawrence sluggishly flows through the valley till it makes it escape into Lake Champlain; it then tumbles down a steep declivity over a bed of rocks and roars as if in exultation of making its escape from the Letheard channel..... Whitehall is situated at the bottom of a narrow defile in the mountain and has the bustle and crowded aspects of a port.....Some of the houses are situated on elevations and declivities and some in the bottom of the vale."

The Whitehall Times
August 26, 1982

Wood Creek History - 1848
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

We learn from scientific geographers that the area around Whitehall has passed through several phases. In ages past this land area rose to great heights. In turn it was eroded only to rise again to be eroded again. Four great glacial periods affected the land. During one period Lake Champlain Valley was a great salt body of water. It was drained by a river that flowed south to the Hudson whose estuary extended 150 miles east of its present mouth.

Dr. Asa Fitch in his Survey of Washington County, 1848, gives this interesting explanation as proof of this direction of the river in early times.

“On excavating the Champlain Canal, it was found that all along the valley of Wood Creek, at least six feet below the surface was a layer made up of leaves, nuts, sticks and logs, from whence springs of clear water were everywhere issuing. The nuts were plainly butternuts and beech-nuts. Ash and other logs, quite sound, occurred, but no pine. Pine was originally abundant on the uplands each side of this stream, but none grew down in its valley. The trees, in most instances, it was plain to see, had their tops to the south, that is, upstream. Below this layer of vegetable matter was a stratum of tough blue clay; above it was sand and loam, in excavating for the bed of a canal lock, eleven feet beneath the surface, the trunk of a black ash tree, two feet in diameter was come upon.”

“A most important fact in the statement is, that those buried trees were mostly found with their tops toward the south, showing that when they were lodged there, the current was running in a direction the reverse of what it does now, And as further evidence in this connection it should be remembered that on both sides of this stream pot-holes or great pots were worn in the gneiss and sandstone at various heights one of which is upwards of sixty feet above the level of the canal. Indeed we have many facts which demonstrate that Lake Champlain originally discharged its waters into the Hudson River.” (I only wish he had gone on to enumerate them.)

Over the years Wood Creek has had several names. The early Dutch called it Houtkill. The French named it Riviere du Chicot or River of Logs. It was sluggish although deep and carried logs and stumps along. The English called it Wood Creek. On early maps the part of Lake Champlain that extends north from the Falls is often called Wood Creek although the creek ends at the falls. It has played an important part in the transportation history of the area, first used by Indians in their canoes, then by both English and French in their war paths, and still later by early settlers. With the building of the first Champlain Canal parts of it were incorporated in the route and more of it when the Barge Canal was constructed. The immediate part of it in the village is Wood Creek with the Barge Canal using its enlarged route. Most people refer to it only as the canal. It is still an artery of commerce and pleasure for people traversing it.

The Whitehall Times
March 31, 1988

1848 – 1849 Geology
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

One of the parts of Dr. Asa Fitch's discoveries in 1849 for the State Agricultural Society was about the rocks and soils of Washington County, and of Whitehall. Professor Silliman in his tour in 1820 from Hanford to Quebec traveled through the west side of the county. He recorded his observations on many subjects, including geological facts. Dr. Emmons, another geologist, in his pamphlet on the Taconic system, added others.

Starting in a southeast direction from Lake George in the northern section of the county and crossing the hills and mountains to Wood Creek and Lake Champlain one passes to the southeast over granite. On the granite is white sandstone in layers that look like man-laid up walls.

This is Potsdam sandstone. On top of this is softer rock made of lime and sandstone, as on Skene Mountain. Further east is a pure limestone that Philip Skene called "the prettiest blue stone" he had ever seen. This is Chazy limestone. Beyond this are the slates.

The whole of Dresden and the part of Whitehall and Fort Ann north of Half-Way Brook and west of Wood Creek is granite and gneiss, although iron ore is found from Ticonderoga south to Fort Ann. Only in Fort Ann was the mineral worked in the Mount Hope Furnace area. In 1849 150 men with 50 teams found employment there. In the latter part of the 19th century men from Whitehall held an interest in this mine. One of the largest interests was Judge Joseph Potter.

Whitehall had association with the graphite deposits in Dresden. In the first part of the 19th century plumbago or black lead, called erroneously, was mined in northern Putnam. This Ticonderoga lead was used for polishing stoves and diminishing friction between moving parts of machinery, and pencil points. Pencils are still called by that name. In 1894 22,000 pounds of this mineral was shipped from the Port of Whitehall.

Potsdam sandstone made the stratum of 200 feet thickness toward Fort Ann. Two miles north of Fort Ann, Flat Rock, was of this rock. When the railroad was built in 1848 this hard rock posed a problem. It took three men to drill through it at five feet a day.

In the upper part of the sandstone rock are marks that look like the roots of trees. These are fossils of a seaweed furoid, one of the earliest plants. Petrified layers of this are found on the west side of Skene Mountain near the top. About ten years ago a biologist came to Whitehall looking for this plant to authenticate a paper he was writing. He was greatly excited but not surprised when he found the plant. He was in a great hurry but knew just where to look and departed so hurriedly that he did not leave much information behind him.

The Whitehall Times
April 7, 1988

1848 – 1849 Geology
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

According to Dr. Asa Fitch slate is another rock that is in Washington County; in fact, it is the predominating rock as it underlies three-fifths of the whole extent. It differs in color, texture, and composition.

Taconic slate occupies the chief part of Granville and Hampton and nearly the entire eastern half of Whitehall. On the west side it is dark colored but becomes lighter as it goes eastward ash gray, bluish gray, and grayish brown. It splits readily. The uses of this slate were roofing, flagging writing slates, steps and so on.

One color is red. It is often said this color is peculiar to Washington County but Dr. Fitch says it extends from Vermont to New Jersey. It is prevalent in Granville, Hebron, White Creek, and Salem. Whitehall has an idle quarry of red slate.

The bright red color is caused by heat. It seems evident that when this part of the earth was formed, the movements were accompanied by heat. Melted silex ran into fissures of slate and produced the color. Whitehall at one time produced yellow pigment for paints along the turnpike road and near the Pangman Hill area. Dr. Fitch explained that Taconic sandstone when exposed to roots of vegetation lose the lime it contains and becomes changed to a porous friable stone, one of a snuff yellow and sometimes red color in the soil. This type of soil was in the Bald Mountain and surrounding area, one place being Louse Hill. Here he related a Revolutionary story. When Burgoyne's army was traversing this area a resident Tory, taking advantage of the confused state of the country, collected a number of cattle from his Whig neighbors and hid them in a secluded hollow in this hill, planning to drive them to the British camp and selling them. However the Americans took possession of the river there and cut off communication with the Royalists. The cow driver had to keep his herd in a narrow hollow until they were discovered almost famished and literally covered with lice and looking like anything but salable meat. In derision of the Tory the hill at once took the name of Louse Hill which it still held in 1849.

With this Revolution story goes another one that concerns an area still known as Guilder Hollow, a section in both Whitehall and Granville, west of the Hatch Hill area. When Burgoyne's army was in Whitehall a man named Guilder busied himself in driving off to the enemy's camp cattle that belonged to the Whigs in the vicinity, secreting himself in this unfrequented hollow. At length his hiding place was discovered by one who had suffered from his thefts. Coming upon him the man took deliberate aim at him with his loaded gun and shot him dead as he was clambering up the rocks to escape.

The Whitehall Times
April 14, 1988

1848 – 1849 Geology Continued
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Although the Chazy limestone of Whitehall and Granville was used for walls and buildings its main use was the production of lime. Kilns were built and lime of a fair quality was produced. Most of the lime in the northern section of the county was used locally but that in Whitehall was put to commercial uses. In the southeast of the town of Whitehall, along the west side of the Bald Mountain range of hills, the burning of lime was carried on. In 1849 five lime kilns were located in Whitehall, three belonging to two men, Orange Noble and his brother and one each to Ambrose Baldwin and Levi Valkenburg (Falkenburg).

The two lime kilns of the Nobles now belong to Ruth and John Stevens who have cleared the land around the kilns and are preserving them. A picture of them is in the town building. The lime produced in these bins was of excellent quality. It was carried in large quarters to Whitehall five, six miles distance for the supply of that village for exportation.

Agricultural crops are dependent on the type of rocks in the vicinity and Dr. Fitch made an extended study for his report to the New York State Agricultural Society. One cognizant of the subject of geology would benefit from the study of this report

A Wilderness Boat without Tools

In reading about travels on Wood Creek and the Hudson in the early 1700's we find that it's different to pass over the falls. Accounts simply say the traveler made boats between falls. Dr. Fetch found this method in the Swedish Naturalist Kalm who passed over Wood Creek in June 1749. This method would be without tools. The builder would go out into the woods and find the smoothest and largest basswood in the area. From the trunk of this he would carefully strip the bark in one entire sheet, free from cracks or holes. The bark at this time would still be loose. He then would spread it upon the ground, smooth side down and hold it down with heavy stones and pieces of wood. The sides and ends would then be bent upward and kept in this position by numerous small stakes driven into the ground so as to press against them. The shape of a boat was given to the sheet of bark. Being held at every point by weight for several days it would dry into its form.

A few braces and other supports would be added and the rude craft was ready to be launched.

The Whitehall Independent
July 22, 1987

The Mystery of Whitehall's Lead Mine - 1857
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Luke H. Carrington, a prominent Whitehall businessman, furnished this story in his "Carrington Papers." In 1857 while his father John and he were in Three Rivers, Canada, they met an old Indian whom John recognized as a former resident of Whitehall who had helped him in boating wood out of South Bay on the boat American Eagle.

The Indian was well known in Whitehall. On a bet often times he would leave the village and in two hours return with all the lead he could carry in nuggets as big as a fist, pure lead or nearly so. Young men would organize a party; get the Indian started, and try to follow him but he always eluded them. After many years in Whitehall the Indian returned to his tribe near Three Rivers.

John Carrington, on this visit to Three Rivers tried to bribe the Indian to show where the mine was but he only grunted, saying, no, make White man too rich."

Circa 1910 A. D. Bartholomew related a tradition told in the Bartholomew family. Lemma Bartholomew in 1780 was captured by Indians and carried to Canada and held. While with them he was carried up the Lake Champlain and guarded while some of the party went on up the bay. They returned soon after loaded with lead of such good quality that they just melted it and cast it into bullets. After Lemma's return the Bartholomew brothers attempted to find the mine but were unsuccessful.

West Mountain has traces of many minerals, but not in great quantities in one place. John Smith, husband of Nettie, told me he used to dig out bits of lead with his jackknife from the rocks but never in great quantity.

There must be stories about Indians in early Whitehall. Mrs. Rocque, in her late years, told me that when she was young her grandmother said that Indians were frequent visitors to Whitehall. Several houses were built for them to use on their visits. A relative had split open his leg with an axe. An Indian woman packed the wound with milkweed fluff and poured a liquid of some plants she gathered in the nearby woods. The wound healed.

Just this past week a letter of inquiry came which claimed ancestry of Indians who lived in Whitehall, one of several over the years.

This last lead mine story, is a companion to the Robert Gordon treasure lost in the lake, also in Revolutionary War times.

Genealogy

The Whitehall Times

April 12, 1971

Genealogy

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Early Whitehalls migrated westward to Tioga, Cayuga and Wyoming counties. From there the trek pattern went to Ohio, Iowa, Wisconsin, and finally California. The town historian is constantly receiving requests for information concerning these early families. Because of many fires and lost records, not too much information can be supplied.

The latest request came from Wisconsin for information concerning Eleazar Densmore who married Phoebe Searles, daughter of Gideon Searles. Eleazar's father, the Reverend Densmore, preached in the Merriam farm barn (Robert Kingsley's place). His mother is buried in East Whitehall Cemetery but not his father, also Obidiah. This family came to Whitehall from Glastonbury, Conn. Can anyone help?

The Whitehall Independent

February 10, 1983

Family History

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Through her newspaper articles Mrs. Bertha Dockum is giving genealogical information for Whitehall Research Center in the rooms in the Isaac C. Griswold Library. Since its inception the Center has been cataloging and filing much history of Whitehall and its people, as readers know from the requests that have been made. Much of the genealogical material comes from inquiries over the United States and Canada in return for which information is sent to them if we have it. What Mrs. Dockum is contributing is valuable for our local files. Bible records, an authentic primary source. All extremely desirable and can be copied without harm, as can family pictures. The Center will welcome any material whatsoever on Whitehall and its families. Written material can also be copied without its being done by hand.

A Diary from 1891

Diaries are an excellent source of information for a particular time. In using them as a source the researcher does not include personal items.

Jan. 1 - dance at Burleigh Corps Armory (the former armory in the Anderson Building and later Rush's Hall)

Jan. 7 - Annual meeting of the Steamer Company. (Most of the Fire Department Companies held the annual meeting in January.)

Jan. 8 - 13 degrees below, lodge night initiation.
 Jan. 9 - 16 degrees below but the evening was spent playing tiddle de winkle, a craze at the time.
 Jan. 17 - Regular blizzard.
 Feb. 19 - Vannies Hose Minstrels at Music Hall.
 Feb. 25 - Heavy rain. Water on the floor of the express office at that time in the three cornered building at Canal (Main) and Church (Broadway).
 Apr. 26 - Mr. Cozzens preached to Odd Fellows 72nd anniversary (from such we get dates).
 Apr. 27 - First tow out. 70 boats. Very warm and muggy.
 June 15 - 100 in the shade.
 June 26 - terribly hot graduating exercises in Baptist Church.
 Aug. 24 - Doring's Band gave concert from Opera House Sloop.
 Aug. 25 - Veteran's reunion at Dresden. 3000 present. President Harrison spoke at the depot. -
 Sep. 4 - Sold over 100 baskets of peaches.
 Sept. 9 - Frost
 Nov. 18 - First snow of season
 Dec. 22 - Pecoe's funeral. Whole fire department turned out, over 300 men in line.
 These are simple one lines - but other examples furnish unprinted events, furnish dates, and personalities and other incidents - one being from a formal fraternal initiation when the person said, "I hold out my clean pure hands" and -- held out the dirtiest hands the beholders ever saw.

The Whitehall Times **September 2, 1971**

Genealogy **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Whitehall visitors to the Adirondack Museum at Blue Mountain are interested to see on display the Whitehall Boat. It is natural to wonder if it is one of the boats that, was built from time to time in our Whitehall. Curator George Bowditch from the Adirondack Museum tells me that this Whitehall boat didn't belong to Whitehall. It belonged to the Hudson River boats that could be rowed and also propelled by sail. It went from the Whitehall area in New York City to lighter goods in from the sea-going ships. This Whitehall area in Philip Skene's time was at the water's edge and Skene traded there. Now what remains of it is inland and Whitehall is the name of one of New York's subway stations.

Many requests come for information on Whitehall. Can anyone help with this one from the Waterford Town Historian? An old shipping company believed to have been in Whitehall during the period from 1830 to 1848. The name of the company was W. B.

Harris.” The Waterford Museum has some old materials relating to the company and wants information as we do too, if it was in Whitehall.

While I am talking about requests, here are the names of some early Whitehall families about whom descendants want information. These came in a period of one week and only the surname one first name given: Hatch, Hayes, Hunt and Manchester. Some information can be obtained from gravestone inscriptions. Many of these early cemeteries are being destroyed.

Another request has, to do with Civil War soldiers from the New York State Civil War Regiment, the Second Regiment Veteran Cavalry, commanded by Col. Morgan H. Chrysler. This regiment was organized in Saratoga during the summer and fall of 1863. Officers were sent to Washington County for recruiting duty and obtained many men.

Living relatives of these men from the county are desired by a research on the Regiment:

James Boyle, Daniel Geary, Michael Hefferman, Amos, Blanchard, Robert H. Brett, Ely Pocket, George Marcy, John B. Peckham, Frederick Stuart, Elisha Hill, Franklin Center,

Henry Palmer, Robert Jero, William Cain, Dennis Carroll, William Golden, Daniel Swift,

Curtis D. Wells, John Dannan, William Montana, Ira Chase, William Halliday.

Any information on the names of these descendants will be welcomed and passed along to the researcher.

The Whitehall Times **September 20, 1973**

Genealogy **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Requests for family information keep arriving. There are few resources available on file. Family records and Bibles could have the key to many of them to answer the long searching that many of these people who have roots in Whitehall have gone through.

Can anyone help?

Harvey Eastmen of Trona, Calif., came to Whitehall recently for information on the grandparents of Moses Harvey and Deborah Standish Harvey, especially birth and death dates and places. Nathaniel Harvey was in Skene’s list of tenants and signed the petition to be separated from Skenesborough when he lived to the northeast of the village.

Col. Floyd Brisack of Tacoma, Wash., wishes Information on Jonas Bemis, a Revolutionary soldier who was born probably in Granville or Whitehall about-1765 and served in the garrison at Whitehall (Skenesborough) 1n 1781. He enlisted at Granville in Capt. Livingston’s company commanded by Colonel Scott in 1782.

The Whitehall Times
September 5, 1978

The Gaylords
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

For some time a search has been made for information on Clarissa Martin Gaylord, the mother of two families ~ who were important in _ Whitehall's industrial and social life.

Money and time have been spent in searching deeds, wills, census records, church lists, and other documents in Whitehall and other places but the death of Clarissa has not been authenticated. Present census records provide much information about individuals but other older ones give only the heads of families and some only individuals without family information. The Boardman Cemetery has the lots of the Martin and the Gaylord families but Clarissa is not given.

A former historian made a day by day calendar of events in Whitehall to 1922. It, of course, could not be complete about all people and events, but he did include information on this family. Interestingly enough, Clarissa's death and burial are not included.

Perhaps someone reading this may know of a family genealogy or some information that will help in this years-long search. The entries from the calendar are these:

May 15, 1779, birth of Reuben Hinman Martin.

September 15, 1787, birth of Clarissa, daughter of David Martin, who became the wife successively of Reuben Hinman Martin and Henry Gaylord and the mother of Elisha and Alwyn Martin and Henry Gaylord.

September 17, 1788, birth of Henry Gaylord.

November 12, 1805 married Reuben Hinman Martin and Clarissa Martin (cousins).

March 25, 1811, birth of Alwyn Martin in North Whitehall.

January 25, 1813, death of Reuben Hinman Martin.

January 4, 1815, married Henry Gaylord and Clarissa Martin.

Obituaries of later members of the family give some genealogical information but all slide over information about Clarissa. Perhaps she left Whitehall but the family surely would have known that. Perhaps it was just overlooked for men's lines were given than women's and of course there are no complete files of newspapers in the early history of Whitehall.

The Whitehall Times
January 26, 1978

Granny Rhodes 101 Years Old (1877)
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Those who are tracing family lines know what a long time the search can take. Bible records, church records, vital statistics, people's memories do not always agree. Of course, half the fun is ferreting out exactness. One source of information that can help is a newspaper account, but the clues in these cannot always be relied upon.

One thing I am always looking for from this column is additional material for Whitehall's history and I am always delighted if someone supplies it. Quite a number of people have written with information.

Recently I copied a newspaper item from an 1877 newspaper on Widow Tracy's 101st birthday party. It set two families searching their file and the result was sent to me. In case others of the same line are tracing it, this is the clarification sent by Mrs. Fred Stiles of Fort Ann, who has a wealth of information on families in this area. The widow was not Tracy but Granny Rhodes, 101 years old in 1877. Her daughter was Mrs. Rachel Rhodes Tracy. The grandson was Austin Tracy, son of Rachel. The great-granddaughter was his wife Gertrude Tracy and the great-great-granddaughter Charlotte, their daughter. She was born in 1877, the year great-great-grandmother's 101st birthday.

Genealogy requests are always arriving but it seems that since the Bicentennial and the appearance of Roots requests are more frequent. Right now I am also receiving requests for plans of the ships models that are in Skenesborough Museum.

Just this week these names have been presented for information. From Kansas — Cynthia Mason Hall, born 1816, who married James Rogers Noble. From Troy — Jerome P. Tyler; born 1842; Harry Kilbourne of Hampton in the early 1800's.

A short time ago two requests came within a week of each other for information on Judge Joseph Potter, from different states. Naturally I am way behind in answering such requests, greatly to my sorrow.

"Now is the time for all good people" — to search their family trees, not wait as so many people say "If I'd only done this when my grandparents were alive."

Miss Elizabeth Gilliland of Plattsburgh, in the line of William Gilliland who settled in Willsboro, Elizabeth, and Westport lands, told me that when she was a little girl all of her aunts and uncles, etc., congregated at her home for great family get-togethers and talked over the family stories. She was bored and went out to swing in the barn. How she wished she had listened, for the material on the life of this settler and Revolutionary is very scarce, indeed. Only one of his diaries or journals survived.

The Whitehall Times
March 16, 1978

Facets in a Towns History
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Through the mail came a wooden coin that shows what lies under the desire of knowing one's ancestors genealogy. One side reads "In Memory of Granny Rhodes, Gr. Gr. Mother, Wife of Nathan Rhodes — Anna Brown Rhodes 1776-1878." This was produced in 1977 by Fred and Kaye Stiles, historian and genealogist, in reverence of a member of their family. This really is the basis of the genealogical research now in vogue.

This subject could occupy all the leisure time of a town or village historian. However, there are many other facets that must be considered in their duty. These are pointed out in the historians' workshop held during the Association of Towns annual meetings. The variety mentioned at this year's meeting in New York City shows the scope of this appointed position.

The collection, preservation, and storage of historical material, both manuscript and printed is a huge task in itself.

Maps are historical and important documents. One historian in a western town has specialized in this field and presents a different New York State map each year to the members of the association. Her collection was invaluable to the engineers when the Thruway went through that town.

One present day interest is the photographing and labeling of architectural structures and being able to provide information for their preservation. In this county it is being tied in with the state and national surveys.

The collection of recording history through tie making of tapes and slides is time consuming though a thoroughly satisfactory project. Some work of this kind has been done in the school.

The picture collections involve more than just collecting the pictures and having them copied. There enters the identification, the labeling and the safe keeping of each. Post cards form a big section of these; many people in town and village have added to this town's collection, but there are many more around. Copying does not harm the original.

Added to these are the subject of archeology which has been slightly touched in this area; and relations with schools. It sometimes lies within the providence of the historian to spark historical societies, as Mrs. Benjamin Carpenter did in the town and museums for the benefit of town and visitors.

There are many other facets that are interesting. It is easy to see how an historian can choose one of the many heads and devote most of the available time to it. However, most of them try to work on all of them simultaneously — and enjoy — and be willing to be called a hysterical historian.

The Whitehall Times
April 12, 1979

Yours?

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Genealogy, the study of, is growing by leaps and bounds. It is a fascinating subject that is started unfortunately in the years after one has lost the opportunity to profit by one's parents' and grandparents' family information that is unattainable. But the search is fascinating. There are sources but not complete with all the information needed. Other states have fairly complete information but very often those searchers in New York State are stopped cold for that state does not have records as do the New England states, for example.

This work is but a small part of a town or village historian's duty but it is one that can take up the whole time allotted. The requests in this week's column are a small backlog. Do you have any information on any of these? Even a small clue opens up a whole story of a family sometimes.

Daly, Daley, Daily, Lydis Belle Daley married Saumel Kinner c 1830. Any information at all; needed in Wilmington, Del.

Fross, shortened possibly from La Frosse, John Fross born in Whitehall in 1817 and Sarah Maria (George) Fross 1820. John was son of Abijah. Request from St. Petersburg, Fla.

Louise Jane Platt, probably born in Whitehall; married Samuel Naine of Sharon, Conn., 1814. Information about her parents is needed in Chambersburg, Pa.

Wildrick, Margaret, born c 1837 Ireland; married Robert Rennie, born c1832 Canada; were married in Whitehall 25 March 1856. She 'worked in the home of Robert Doig. From Palatine, Ill.

The map of Whitehall in the post office is one that goes back to the early days of the canal. The fort on the island must be the one of 1812, Fort Diamond. The canal and Wood Creek are shown along with early buildings. Some time maybe they can be all labeled for early deeds name boundaries by owners of buildings around the harbor. Widow Tozer's holdings are large. Ebenezer and Thomas Tozer were Skene's tenants. How did she hold on to the land after the Revolution, one wonders.

Easter services in Trinity Episcopal Church, 13 April 1879.

The morning service was commemorative of the day. The flowers were beautiful, the church redolent with the sweet essence. Rev. J.C. Hall preached the services.

The Sunday school marked the occasion with an exact representation, on a reduced plan, of the Jewish Tabernacle as an object lesson. It was exhibited with facsimiles of the whole building, curtains, altars, tables, candlestick with its seven tapers, and pillars. A large congregation viewed it in the evening.

Notre Dame held Mass at 9 a.m. after which there was a holiday feast of ornamental bread prepared by St. Joseph Society. (This was a Canadian custom which always took place at church holidays.)

The Whitehall Times
November 9, 1979

A Genealogy
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

With the invitation to the George Washington Birthday Ball of 1827, printed last week, Mrs. Virginia (Wells) Davies of Montclair, N. J. sent various papers on her genealogy.

The perusal of these papers gives some interesting information belying the old cliché, I don't want to look up my family tree; I might find a horse thief." One can as easily find royalty or, as in the case of Mrs. Davies, a Dutch clergyman who owned the part of Manhattan on which Wall street is situated, or a lieutenant in His Majesty's Service with family lines that spread over New York State and other eastern states to Ireland, Australia, South Africa and the West Indies.

A recent newspaper article told of a man who wants the United States government to pay to the descendants of Benedict Arnold the back pay denied him in the Revolution. Many of us have the family tale that tells of someone who wanted to go to England to look up a treasure of ancestors who once lived there, but he needs funds to perform the service.

This happened to Mrs. Davies' family in the 1920s but the corporation wanted to collect the money from the government to pay for the property on which Trinity Church in Manhattan stands. This performance led to a search back to about 1665 when the Bogardus stepchildren sold the farm on Manhattan to the English governor, and to 1705 when Queen Anne of England granted the land to Trinity Church.

How did Elias and Sophie Lines (Kimball) Brower receive an invitation to a ball in Whitehall? The clue in the genealogy material is in an uncommon name Lidoriana. This was a name of Elias's daughters but also of a girl in a Smith family of Whitehall. Her brother, Nelson John Smith, was born in the month and year of the ball. Could it be they were in Whitehall for a family gathering? John Smith died of drowning in Whitehall in 1844.

There's good hunting in tracing family trees.

The Whitehall Times
October 23, 198?

Genealogical Inquiries
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

These are some of the many genealogical requests that come. The vital statistics for towns in New York State begin with the year 1881. If deaths do not occur in the town, of course the record is not there. Many requests want information in the late 1700's.

Minor Winter, born 12 Dec. 1789, and Sally (Sarah) Hurd, born 14 Aug. 1795.

James Watson and wife Mary lived in Whitehall in 1790. Supposed connection with the Earll family during the Revolution. Perhaps Tories for a while?.

Ebenezer I. Stark, born in Whitehall in 1821, son of Susan and (?) Stark. Other names Sylvester 1817, Anoretta (Anna) 1833, Martha 1837, Ruth 1839.

David and Daniel Richardson lived in Whitehall in late 1700's and early 1800 s Daniel Richardson married Sarah Burroughs. He was in the Revolution. Wants marriage date. David married Lydia Ackley.

Lydia (Coffeen) Gilbert had nine children. The will of Lydia Mabel mentions her son Edmond Gilbert. Was she buried in Whitehall?

Blakeslee burial place it in Whitehall; Hull Blakeslee born 1794; John Park Blakeslee. 1825-1892, John's wife was Elizabeth Spooner, 1838-1912. The Spooner graves are in Geenmount. Hull Blakeslee was one of Whitehall's teachers.

Gideon Lindsey is buried somewhere in Whitehall and served in the Revolution He died between 1801 and 1815 A daughter, Rachel Reed raised a family in Whitehall.

If anyone has information about any of these, I'll be happy to pass it on. Research in genealogy takes great chunks of time, as everyone searching for his family line knows. It is only a small part of the information a town historian has to collect. There doesn't seem to be enough time in a day.

The Whitehall Times

August 25, 1983

Those Ancestors

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Among, the many facets of a town historian's position is that of genealogy. During the last decade a nation-wide interest in family history has grown immensely. There is a sense of need to know our roots. Historical associations of every kind are besieged with requests for aid.

Many town and village records like those of Whitehall have been lost by fire and water. The mandatory vital statistics over the state began only in 1881. Death records are made in a town only if a person died in that town, so a search is often frustrating. A great many of the records requested are in the late 1700's or early 1800's. It is often, impossible for an historian to help the searchers. What records Whitehall has have been gleaned from many sources and filed. Besides these are the valuable scrapbooks that volunteer women are tabulating for the files.

It is gratifying, therefore, when a search in our Research Library provides a last link in a genealogy or a date or even a first name. Over a short period of time recently this summer such help was given to several people. A young couple from Lexington, Kentucky, was ecstatic when they found the last link in their family search and were able to go out to the Miller Cemetery and take a picture of the Matthew stone. Another couple came from Bellows Falls, Vermont; and found many names of Kilburns or Kilbourns, for family spellings do get changed. It remains for them now to connect the lines and know which member belong to which generation. Another researcher wanted information on a

fairly recent family that lived in Whitehall, that of the Vincents and the obituaries listed from the scrapbooks was valuable:. Another wanted to know of an early minister family of Merriams.

For some reason there is an awakened interest in the descendants of Henry Francisco, the 134-year-old man whose dates are authenticated. Some of Henry's 20 odd children wandered a field over the United States. So by mail and by personal visits people have come from Tulsa, Oklahoma, Bloomsbury, New Jersey and Desert Hot Springs, California seeking aid. They were rewarded with a packet of papers the Town Historian has been able to collect, but the information does not cover the many children of that family who have used Francisco and Cisco, or Sisco over the years. The effigy of Henry produced in the Bicentennial of 1959 remains in the Skenesborough Museum with a school paper written about him by Nancy Moore Barkley.

Such constant requests leave the Town Historian with never a dull moment. Much more information could also come from Whitehall's many family Bibles.

The Whitehall Times
April 2, 1987

Genealogical 1877
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Family genealogists would be glad to find such a record as this. Ambrose Ames of the A. Ames Sons machining sashes, doors, and blinds, was one of nine children. Three sisters of this family married three brothers of the Bliss family and the wife of Ambrose was a sister of the Bliss brothers. The longevity of the family was noted: Charlotte Ames Bliss, 85; Amy Ames Bliss, 82; Catherine Ames Bliss, 70 years; Charles Ames, 62; Howard Ames, 80; Mrs. Sarah Stebbins, 77; Mrs. O. W. Sage, 72; Ambrose Ames, 74; N. H. Ames had died at 13 years. The father had died at 80 and the mother at 75.

Government

The Whitehall Times
January 14, 1982

Government in Whitehall 1776 - 1782
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

During 1776 Skenesborough was under military control of the Americans. During this period military forces, men collected from all states, prepared the first fleet to see action in the Revolutionary War. The invasion of the Lake, held back a year by the action of the Battle of Valcour, took place in 1777. From July to the Battle of Saratoga in

October, Skenesborough was under military surveillance of the British force. But with the American victory at Saratoga this influence ceased and the families who had fled gradually came back to pick up their old way of living.

The next knowledge of Skenesborough's formal government comes from Allen Covey's *Gazetteer of the County of Washington, New York*, of 1850. He states without a source that the Town of Skenesborough was organized in 1778. He listed the names of the chief officers: two supervisors in 1778 — Levi Stockwell and Daniel Brundige; a town clerk, James Burroughs; three assessors, Thomas Wilson, Zebulon Tubbs and Joseph Earl; Constable William Higley. In 1779 Brundige succeeded alone to supervisor and in 1780 Levi Stockwell was elected to office.

Times were still unsettled and rumors of invasion and raids were rife. It will be remembered that the inhabitants of the town were not clustered around the head of the Lake with the fort and Skene's buildings. The farm lands were to the northeast, east and south of what we now call the village.

In 1779 Levi Stockwell was stationed at Skenesborough House in command of the northern frontier situated at Skenesborough. Help had been requested from the state to strengthen this northern frontier but it was too long in coming. In March, 1780, when Levi Stockwell was away from his post a raid took place in which the buildings of Philip Skene were destroyed with the exception of the 20x30 foot ell of the Skenesborough House which was for so many years described as Skene's house. After this Skenesborough the village slowly grew to its important place in transportation and farming

—Hatch Hill, Bartymetown, Beaver Meadows and along Wood Creek prospered.

The first record of formal government in Skenesborough is the "Town Record Book of Whitehall, 1782 to 1811," which is in the Manuscript Room of the New York State Library in Albany. When Chrisfield Johnson wrote his history of Washington County this record book had been lost. But he did have access to the second book starting in 1812. Curiously enough this second book has disappeared but the first book was found in the State Library and was on display in Whitehall's 200th anniversary in 1959.

In 1779 an Act of Attainder and Forfeiture of Property was passed on the lands of Philip and Andrew Skene. This was an illegal action as Philip had always been a loyal subject to King George. New York State was in need of funds and it wasn't long before the Skenesborough acres of land were offered to the highest bidder.

These first town records have little of detail. The first year, 1782, records the names only of the elected officials. The number for the various offices were: 1 supervisor, 1 town clerk, 3 assessors, 1 constable, 1 collector, 1 commissioner of roads. The number of men appointed to the minor offices later grew to be astonishing to us today. For example at one time there were 32 commissioners of roads. But this was when one individual kept up only a section of a road.

The Whitehall Times
January 7, 1982

Early Town Government – 1782 - 1811
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A few columns will be devoted to the early formal government of Skenesborough and Whitehall. The first known town record book, 1782-1811, is in the Manuscript room of the New York State Library in Albany. It was on loan to our display during the Bicentennial of 1959.

This 200-year-old record is rather scanty in detail. It records the town officers and committeemen and occasionally some laws enacted or resolutions passed.

Philip Skene's first patent of 25,000 acres of land granted 13 March 1765 stated that Skenesborough was a township. Its form of government was described — two assessors, one treasurer, two overseers of the poor, one collector and four constables, all chosen and elected out of the inhabitants of the township every year on the last Tuesday in September at the most public place.

When Charlotte County was set aside from Albany County, the towns along Lake Champlain and southeast to Salem petitioned that Skenesborough become the county seat as it was best located geographically for them. After some controversy the Council of New York made Skenesborough the county town, provided ~ that Philip Skene gave 500 acres of land.

Skene did provide the land and on 17 March 1773 the council decided that 250 acres of this land be used for a minister of the Church of England and proper spots be used for a church, a court house, a school and other public buildings. The rest should be used for a place for the public schoolmaster and town common.

However, because of the quarrel between the New Hampshire Grants and New York, and politics, this location did not last and the county seat went to Fort Edward. Two years later the first aggressive action of the Revolution occurred in Skenesborough. Skene was abroad on a trip to England and when he returned he was taken to Philadelphia.

In the unsettled relationship of the citizens at the time, overseers were appointed to look after Skene's interests during 1775. Capt Noah Lee and Elisha Philips were appointed. When John Brooks, Skene's manager, was allowed to return to Skenesborough from Salisbury, he was agent for a time; but when he acted as a spy for the British he was removed and Patrick Lanagan was given power of attorney over Skene's estate for the rest of the year.

After the capture of Skenesborough, town affairs seem to have been placed in charge of Aaron Fuller; Paul Yeats was appointed to keep the sawmill on the east side of the falls running. Fuller had a difficult time for Skene put a price on his head and the town and Indians were anxious to earn it.

The Whitehall Times
January 21, 1982

Whitehall Town Government – 1783
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The town record of the year 1783 reported two resolutions besides the annual election of officers. State Laws told “each and every Town, Manor, Precinct and District within the State” that their “freeholds and inhabitants” at town meetings had the power to make “Laws and Prudential orders on various subjects for their welfare.”

On 1 April citizens of Skenesborough took up the regulation of their common fences. By voice vote they spelled out the dimensions of a lawful fence. It should be built four feet six inches high of good ‘stuff.’ well laid. With nary a hole from the earth three feet upward and should exceed six inches and from there to the top no hole should exceed twelve inches. Any animal deemed a ‘commander’ found trespassing, if enclosed, must be within a fence of these dimensions.

At this time forfeiture of the Skene lands was being carried out. Feelings of loyalty, distrust, and whatever emotions the people had during the Revolution must have been still quite strong. This meeting of the town produced another resolution. Very wordily it said that “all and every person, since the Declaration of Independence who had been with the army and the fleet of Great Britain or in any way joined with them against the liberties of America should be excluded and barred from having the privilege of being an inhabitant of Skenesborough.”

But the resolution went on to soften this somewhat. It was resolved further that nothing in this resolution should debar or hinder a person from becoming an inhabitant if he has been pardoned according to any State Convention declamation or proclamation of the Commander in Chief of the Army. However, such pardoned person should produce for the overseers of the Poor of the Town a certificate subscribed and attested to by some proper authority certifying such person “has been a good and faithful friend to the freedom and independence of America” and is able to prove to the overseers he is still such a friend.

And in a more strict manner the resolution added that any inhabitant of Skenesborough should not employ, work, or “harbor any person who has been an enemy to the Liberty of America, or any ‘transient person, straggler or stranger” unless he can produce a certificate or proof of his loyalty.” If an inhabitant should employ or harbor or council such a person he shall incur the highest displeasure of each and every inhabitant of Skenesborough and shall ever hereafter be esteemed unworthy to act in any public office in the town.”

Some people in Skenesborough adhered to the British cause. These left the area, a probable place being to Nova Scotia where Loyalists were welcomed. The affidavits of these people to the British government asking for remuneration for their land and goods lost in Skenesborough make interesting reading for another time.

The Whitehall Times
January 28, 1982

Town Government – 1784 - 1785
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In 1784 town record contains only the list of officers elected 6 April, the first Tuesday.

But the town was growing as shown by the numbers necessary to do the work of the officers. Two supervisors were chosen. Then road commissioners were named but the overseers of the roads were increased from three to seven, the fence and fence viewers from three to four, and overseers of the poor from three to five.

The roads were kept in condition by the men who lived along them. Those neighborhoods where growth was discerned is indicated by the names of the landowners chosen as overseers and road commissioners.

From the ten names we know the areas of highways were toward South Bay (the brick house by the bay was constructed about this time); in Bartymetown and old Fair Haven road area; along Wood creek; in Rathbone Pangmon Hill district; Hatch Hill and Loomis Hill district; and the southeast section near Mettawee River (Skenesborough or east area). Growth indicated in 1784 was the South Bay, southeast and Old Fair Haven road areas.

Within two years 1784 and 1785 the name of the town was changed from Skenesborough to Whitehall. Perhaps some future research will give the reasoning. Somewhere I ran across a supposed “fact” that the Town Record book of 1784 opened with the town name of Skenesborough to be followed by a torn page after which 1786 opened with White Hall — two words implying some underhand work. But there are no torn pages in the first Town Record book. Election in Skenesborough took place 6 April 1784. There was no record of election in 1785. Election in 1786 took place in White Hall 2 May. The name had two capitalized hyphenated words.

Oddly enough there is recorded under Skenesborough heading 17 October 1785 the survey of a road in the Hatch Hill area beginning at the front door of Benjamin Burrough’s grist mill (on Castle Creek emptying into the Mettawee River). It ended in the county highway between Mr. Earl’s and Mr. Granger’s houses. Mr. Earl’s house was in the area south of the Gray’s Corner’s road.

The Whitehall Times
January 28, 1982

Whitehall Government – 1787 - 1793
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In the town records of 1787, the town officials were still listed under the heading of White-Hall on June 6. At this time people had become conscious of the need for roads.

Any 12 freeholders under oath could petition for a road and Gordon Taft, surveyor, with road commissioners James Gilmore, Samuel Harkins, George Ackley and James Wilson were kept busy laying them out.

After the year 1787, there is a gap of five years in the records until 1792. However, Corey's Gazetteer of Washington County 1849-1850 reported that Cornelius Jones was supervisor from 1788 to 1792 and Thomas Lyons in 1793. Benjamin Richardson was town clerk in 1791; in 1792 Asa Noyes succeeded him.

1788 was the Famine Year. On June 20 a heavy frost damaged the crops so severely that there was much suffering the following winter.

The first national census was taken in 1790. Whitehall's showed there were 151 families with a population of 797; double that at 379 in 1773. Gordon Taft related that there were eight houses in the village area, four of which were new. But Whitehall Landing grew rapidly after that. For a time Martin's Landing on East Bay had more business.

In 1792 the town had dropped the hyphen from the name and used the two words — White Hall. No election of officials was recorded but six new roads were described. At the sides of three is the word "illegal". The starting points and location of spots along the length of the roads were often someone's front door or dwelling house or barn, foot of a hill, marked trees, low water mark, or entry into an already existing road, locations now unknown. It would take a great length of time to ferret out the location of the farms and homes of the people mentioned. The Book of Forfeitures is not much help for the boundary lines are described in the same manner.

In 1793 at the April town meeting, 18 pathmasters were chosen, an increase evidently due to the new roads. The office of overseer of the poor was probably created to keep the indigent from being an expense to the town. One example of their work was the case of an aged widow living in Galway. Before her sons could bring her to their home in town, they had to obtain two sureties that she would not become a town charge. Two town officials, Lewis Hinman and David Richardson, became sureties. It is interesting to note that not too long ago descendants of the widow were pleased to have a copy of the town entry from our records.

Daniel Earll was a particular man. In recording, as justice of the peace, the election of town officials, each of the categories of officials was entered separately in the journal as "Chosen and sworn to serve the Town of White Hall."

The Whitehall Times

January 28, 1982

Whitehall Government – 1794 - 1801

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

At the town meeting in White Hall 1 April, 1794, George Ackley was chosen town clerk. He used the minutes to record some action passed by the inhabitants. "No hogs or sheep shall be free commoners. No horse shall be a commoner after one year of age on pain of the owner's paying a person for his time of catching the horse and taking him to

his owner. No ram shall run at large in the highways or commons from 1 September to 18 November. Two dollars would be recovered by process of law, or, if no owner was found, the ram would be advertised for six days in a public place. Then, if no owner appeared, it would be sold and the proceeds given to the Overseers of the Poor.”

In 1795, 1796 and 1797 more laying out of roads seems to have been the main order of business. In 1796 for the first time three school commissioners were chosen. In 1797 the officials voted to raise a tax of 30 pounds for the benefit of the poor. There had been assessors and collectors chosen each year. It seems odd that there was no record of disbursement. In the case of keeping up the roads, the owners of the land along the roads paid some of their tax by working on the roads.

In 1798 the officials voted that each of the four pound keepers’ barn yards or barns should be considered a lawful pound and that any man might catch any ram running at large from 1 Sept. to 16 Dec.

In this year for the first time the names of 12 petitioners for a new road were listed in the record. This road was in the East Bay area.

1799 saw the beginning of more frequent bits of business recorded. The Overseers of the Poor were given discretion to care for a child now on the town. The road commissioners were granted pay for the last two years of service out of town money. One Samuel Stow was given a license to keep a tavern for one year while a Jacob Francisco was allowed to do the same. One wonders if this was in deference to his father, Henry Francisco. Thirteen of the town’s outstanding men were granted licenses as tavern keepers and sellers of spirituous liquors. The license money paid to the Overseers of the Poor as a duty of excise. One other person was given a license just to sell spirituous liquors. This does not mean there were 16 hotels in town, for the taverns could be a public room in these men’s homes.

At the close of this session, the meeting place was set for next year’s annual gathering. It was to be at the Block House near the Landing. This was the French and Indian fort or block house at the corner of High and Church streets (now Broadway, north of the Presbyterian Church). It was restored for the Revolutionary War soldiers. It overlooked the lake. The barracks were constructed to the east of the fort.

The year 1800 marked the beginning of a new century. In March the freeholders and inhabitants of the Town of White Hall were summoned to the Block House at 10 a.m. to determine the meeting place of the next annual meeting. Evidently the Block House could not be used for meetings of the town. The former home of Asa Naves was chosen for the meeting. He was one of the inhabitants who kept a tavern. The annual election took place 1 April. This year the path finders numbered 27 this year 11 men were granted licenses to keep a public inn or tavern. While four more were licensed to retail spirituous liquors in their store the money to be paid as duty of excise to the Overseers of the Poor.

More roads had been surveyed so that the number of pathfinders was increased to 32 in 1801. The water of East Bay was considered a lawful fence from Fidler (?) Elbow up said bay to the east line of the town. Joseph Clemmons and Henry Francisco were declared exempt from highway taxes. The next annual meeting was to be held at the house then occupied by Nathaniel Earll.

In this year Main Street from The Bar to Division Street was laid out, changing the route from the Landing to the east. It started at the house of Melancthon Wheeler, which stood north of Bellamy Street on the west side and went south. It ran to Division Street.

This took the place of the first Main Street that ran along Center Street from The Bar to Division Street.

The Whitehall Times
February 25, 1982

Whitehall Government – 1801 - 1806
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

During 1802, thirty-two overseers of highways served on the roads. During the year the Old Turnpike from White Hall Landing, or West Road as it was called, to Granville was changed.

In 1803 the pounds for the town were changed, on paper anyway. Instead of being located in the barns and barnyards of the pound master's, they were to be in three sections of the town — on Wood Creek, on East Creek (Mettawee) and in Bartholomewtown.

Two men from each section were voted to superintend and build the pounds. The bodies of water Wood Creek, East Creek and East Bay — were to be the boundaries of the pounds. Now all horses, hogs and sheep could not be considered commoners for the year.

It must be the construction did not take place for in the following years, 1804 and 1805. There was the usual designation of barns and barnyards as pounds and the ruling against stallions, rams or hogs running loose. It was noted also that geese should not be commoners. At this time also fence viewers, pound masters and damage appraisers were the same - five elected men instead of three for each office. The annual meeting of 1806 provided that the prosecutor should be paid his reasonable expenses for prosecuting public nuisances on highways out of the penalties collected. It was also voted that a bridge would be built across Skene's old dam and that the town meeting place be changed from Nathaniel Cook's place to that of John McFarrian's (McFerren).

The year 1806 was important in White Hall village history as the New York State legislature in March gave the boundaries and defined the duties and privileges of the inhabitants. The date 1806 is on the door of the vault in the present village building.

The first delineation of the village, according to Clarence Holden was interpreted the indenture, included the area between Sixth Avenue (Maple street) on the south and Put's Rock on Lake Champlain. The west boundary was as far west as the reservoir and as far east as the lake channel to the falls on the east side of the barge canal.

Permission was given to the inhabitants to provide firemen and fire wardens to protect the village and pay for fire equipment out of taxes. One wonders what equipment they had, as the first fire engine was not purchased until 1835. (This is the Torrent #1 which is on display in Skenesborough Museum.)

Officers were to be three trustees, one treasurer and one collector, to serve for a year. The trustees were to value the real and personal property of the citizens and determine their taxes. The tax collector could keep four cents on each dollar for his work.

1806 was also the year the Dutch Reformed, later the Presbyterian Church on Williams Street by the cemetery was built by John Williams and his mother from materials already collected by the father and husband of the two.

The Whitehall Independent April 2, 19??

1806

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

On the vault in the Village Building is the date 1806. This was the year that the State Legislature by enactment set the Village of White Hall aside from the County. In 1807 the one word Whitehall appeared in print, it was easier to write. The pronunciation should really place equal stress on each part of the name.

The size of the Village was much smaller than today. The boundaries extended from the vicinity of Sixth Street (Maple), ran north to the channel of Lake Champlain, and then turned south to the falls of Wood Creek and its west side.

The Act established duties and privileges. A duty was to elect fire wardens and firemen to protect the citizens, and a privilege to tax for fire engines and equipment. The elected officers were to be three trustees, one treasurer, and one collector for one year. The trustees were to assess the value of property, real and personal, and apportion the tax. The collector could have four cents on each dollar he collected and the tax raised could be more than \$300.

In this year 1806, the road to Granville came from the area of the Bar up to the bridge across the Creek, located about where the footbridge was, and south on the present Williams Street. This road was extended 5 April north from the bridge to a point opposite Skene's old dam, which was in the vicinity of the silk mill. At the same time, the trustees voted to build a bridge across Skene's old dam.

Alexandre Andre painted a picture of Whitehall this year. It has been described looking south from the harbor. Skene Mountain is there with no buildings on it. The mouth of Wood Creek shows no dam or bridge. On the west side is a saw mill and below it a row of one story buildings and perhaps a tavern. Above these on the hill is shown a large square building, the fort of the wars and the barracks. The harbor contains sloops, a large boat, and batteaux. It is reminiscent of the 1819 Milbert picture.

In this year the town elections put these men in office, familiar names in Whitehall's early history. These were Supervisor Daniel Earll, Clerk Gideon Taft, and Collector Solomon Vine. The other officers were plural in number: two Overseers of the Poor, Thomas Griffith and Thomas Lyon; three Assessors, William Johnson, Reuben Jones, and Thomas McFarren; three Highway Commissioners, Absalam Daley, Squire Bartholomew, and John McFarren; four constables, Jeremiah H. Dwyer, Solomon Vine, Ezra Mygatt, and Absalam Daley.

Often a man held a position in two of offices. The other positions were fence viewers, pound masters, and path masters. The latter were often teens in number as they had charge of keeping the roads in their vicinity in good order.

The Whitehall Times
March 11, 1982

Whitehall Government – 1807
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The 1807 town meeting was held in the house of John McFarran. The pound waster's work and that of the fence viewers and damage appraisers must have increased. At this meeting five pound masters were elected and five each fence viewers and damage appraisers were chosen. And now there were 32 overseers of highways.

The year 1806 saw the beginning of the lake boat era. This could have sparked the petition sent to the legislators for why else could foreigners be landed or left in town? A committee was appointed to draft a petition to be sent to the legislators regarding these foreigners being landed or left in town. Another petition was drafted for the legislature so that a proper person be appointed in each town in the county to receive the acknowledgement of all deeds and conveyances and other writings. This could well be a great benefit for deeds to the lands sold in the forfeiture of the town were scarce in boundaries and probably not recorded in the county.

The old commissioners of highways were authorized to make a settlement with West or Fair Haven which had made a demand on White Hall for work done on the bridge near Orm's Mills and instructed that money in the commissioners' hands could be laid out by them on the public highways as they thought proper.

Another affair with neighbors occurred in 1807. In January petitioners asked that a special meeting be warned to deliberate the attempt of Hampton to apply to the legislature of New York to separate a part of the Town of White Hall and connect it to Hampton. Such a meeting was authorized and was held 14 January at noon in the home of Jared Sears. The inhabitants who signed the petition were from the eastern part of the town. After deliberation a vote was taken. All but one inhabitant voted that the part of White Hall formerly claimed by Hampton should remain a part of White Hall. It could be that this was all the action taken at the time, for in 1809 the procedure was repeated except that this time it was voted that a remonstrance be sent to the legislature of New York and two prominent people were chosen to prepare the paper sent to the state.

During this year additional roads were laid out. One was a change in Church Street, placing it farther west from its former position leading from the Bar. The next day another road was described that sounds as though it extended this road to the south to pass Ackley's Tavern on the road to Fort Ann.

This year also two slips were laid out. One was north of the Davis Building which was later the Kingsley Building that stood west of the canal on Broad Street north and a continuation of Bellamy Street. The other was where the building we still call the boat garage. These were used in summer months for ease of getting produce from and to the boats and in winter for easy access to the ice travel on the lake.

The Whitehall Times
March 18, 1982

Whitehall Government – 1808 - 1809
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The town meeting of the first Tuesday of April, 1808, was held in the new meeting house near The Landing. This was the first Presbyterian Church built on Williams Street in front of the burying ground as such a place was formerly called.

In 1805-1806 General John Williams had stockpiled materials for a church on what probably was the knoll now holding the United Methodist church. After his death his wife and son brought the materials nearer and erected the building on Williams. I wouldn't say the meeting house was "near The Landing" but on those days people probably walked wherever they wanted to go and the meetings seemed to be in the daytime.

The Overseers of the Poor certified that Brom Any appeared to be under the age of 50 and of sufficient ability to provide for his wife and son James. These were termed slaves of George Ackley who owned the pre-revolution tavern that stood on the site of the Grand Union store. In early accounts Ackley owned five slaves and the census of 1790 lists Samuel Hoskins as owning one.

The town records state that the by-laws passed at the town meeting should continue to be the by-laws of the town. But what were the by-laws?

In this year the town clerk first wrote the names of the town as one word — Whitehall.

The officers voted that at the next town meeting all the officers down to and including the constables should be chosen by ballot.

One road laid out this year was in the vicinity of Roger Hollister. It ran north to join the road that lead from Oliver Jones' to Fair Haven.

In 1809, again meeting at the new meeting house, the officers voted that \$100 be raised for the town poor. A Mr. Hough had been shuttled back and forth between another town and Whitehall, neither town wanting to bear the expense of supporting him. Finally Whitehall put his case up for bid. Mr. Hough was bid off to Dr. Crookshank for \$1.18½ per week. The doctor was to provide board, washing and mending.

This was the first year of voting by ballot. The officers voted upon in this manner were the supervisor, the town clerk, assessors, collectors, overseers of the poor, commissioners of highways and the constables. This left for voice vote, the overseers of highways, 33 of them now, the fence viewers, and the damage appraisers. The constables now were beholden to bail for the faithful performance of their duty to the town in the sum of \$1000.

The road commissioners of highways were to ascertain and number all the road districts in the town, which they did for the next meeting, all 32 of them.

This was the first year that the **Vermont** began to run between St. John and Whitehall, but this was not ton business.

The Whitehall Times
March 25, 1982

Whitehall Government – 1810 - 1811
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In 1810 at the 3 April meeting of the town held in the meeting house, the inhabitants voted that the town accounts be “exhibited.” (Were they read or just open for inspection?) The sum of \$100 was voted for the support of the poor and \$15 for the building of the bridge known as Leonard’s.

This was the meeting at which the commissioners of highways reported on the road districts. These were numbered as 32 but No. 31 ‘was not described. The land marks for these roads are very indefinite at this time in history but were evidently distinctive in 1810.

The general location of the roads of many of them can be discerned by the people who lived along them. No. 1 began at Whitehall Landing and ran south on Wood Creek to the top of the hill north of the bridge north of Widow Hinman’s. No. 2 picked up from there and ran south to the Fort Ann line. No. 3 started at Van Dusen’s and Callendar’s Store on the dock at the Landing and ran over Caton Hill south to No. 1, generally in the vicinity of Saunders Street.

No: 4 started at the Landing from the bridge went south past the meeting house to the middle of the bridge over East creek (Mettawee) and No. 5 continued from there south to the town line. No. 11 went up the hill past Pangmon’s.

Knowing that the farms of Wright’s, Skeels’, Harlow s Clemmons, and Peck were in the general area of northeast Whitehall, we can enjoy this description: Beginning on the south line of William Skeels from thence to the bridge including the road to Carvery’s Bridge likewise taking the road leading from Esquire Harlow’s to the Bay by Wright’s to the foot of the ledge below Wright’s sap works also including the road leading by Jonathan Clemmons likewise a road easterly from the school house near Esquire Harlow’s leading to said road to a hemlock stump standing on the right side of the road opposite Seth Peck’s line.

Some of the landmarks and school houses as in the Hatch Hill neighborhood but with the exception of choosing three school commissioners in 1800 schools are not mentioned in the records. These commissioners were Zadock Wheeler, Gideon Taft and George Ackley.

On the first Tuesday in April, 1811, the number of people chosen to fill the offices was greatly increased. The path masters now numbered 32 to match the districts. The fence viewers and damage appraisers were now assisted by 13 other men. Concern for the confining of animals was still the main part of the town business. The place of the next meeting was set for Thomas Lyon.

Thus ended the first Town Record Book of Whitehall. It gives insight into some of what the officials felt important. It also gives the names of our early men in the scattered areas that made up early Skenesborough, White-Hall, White Hall, and Whitehall.

The Whitehall Times
October 26, 1978

Village Records of the 1860's
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

On 13 April 1860 a fire occurred on Canal (Main) Street from E. W. Hall's drug store to Division, burning some houses on Center Street.

That day a special meeting of the village trustees was held in the office of Charles Chapin (he owned a building on the south corner of Division Street and Canal Streets). Six men were appointed to act as watch men and special police over the area burned, which included the village hall. These men were Warner and Warren McFerran, William Pardo, Henry D. Black, R Steery and J. W. Parker.

Three days later, 16 April the trustees voted to pay these men \$2 each and gave Sylvester Cole and John Benjamin \$1.25 each for watching over the fire engines on the night of the 13th and John Connor, \$2.50 for watching two nights, 13-14 April. Phoenix Hotel was paid \$125 and Parker House \$75 for feeding the foreign fire companies on that night.

Mutual aid was obtained for which the trustees were grateful. These resolutions were passed, and hopefully sent although the records do not say so.

"Resolved, that our hearty and sincere thanks are due to the firemen of Rutland Saratoga and Fort Edward for their generous and magnanimous efforts to preserve our property in the recent fire at this place and that we hold up their example to the firemen of our own village as worthy of all honorable emulation.

Resolved, that if the opportunity should ever offer itself we hope and believe that we shall be both able and willing to return some of the kind offices which they have done in our behalf and pray that as a further mark of their kindly feeling toward us, that they call upon our own firemen for similar aid in the hour of their necessity.

"Resolved, that we tender to the Saratoga & Whitehall R. R. companies and the Rutland & Washington R K companies and president and other officers of our most grateful acknowledgements for their energetic and disinterested services rendered to us during the late fire, in communicating intelligence of our danger and furnishing means of transmit for the firemen of the neighboring villages."

Although village records were destroyed, all the buildings were not destroyed entirely. The trustees gave a bond of \$3,000 and later bills were paid. Charles Chapin was appointed to procure the repairs on the village hall and the engine room of Fire Engine Company No. 1 and the chief engineer was ordered to make a special report of the condition of the Fire Department at the next meeting. It was recorded that he did make this report but the details were not given.

At the October, 1860 meeting bills for these repairs were; ordered paid Charles Lotrace \$2.00 for fire engine No. 1; A. Selden \$26.50 for repairs on hose; C.D. Hamilton \$76.63 repairs on hose; D.S. Wright rent of room for Engine Co. No. 1; for repairs on Village Hall, Asa Abell \$52.82, Joseph Livingston \$4.00, Joseph Hager \$4.43, William Cain \$3.23, Warren McFerren was given \$5.00 for repair of the village lockup and Peter Plue \$10.70 for repair on the hook and ladder. This last amount was taken from the

Foreign Insurance Company Fund and that fund was then divided equally among the fire companies of the village.

The village clerk, A. J. Long, was authorized to procure blank books, seal and stationery for use of the village. These cost \$34.50. At this time Charles Chapin was president of the village board, and members with him were H. A. Griswold, H.H. Webster, J.W. Ingalls and A.J. Lone.

The Whitehall Times **November 2, 1978**

Village Records of the 1860's **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

A dearth of detail characterizes the village records of the early years. In May, 1860, the village fathers authorized the Aubin Gas Work Company of Albany and its associates to use the streets, lanes, public squares, etc., of the village to supply it and its tenements with gas light.

To make preparations to erect the gas works the company would have the exclusive privilege for one year if they began on or before 1 July 1860 and go on with unnecessary delay. The year almost passed with no further record of the gas lights until June 1861 a proposition for lighting the streets came from the Whitehall Gas Company — and was tabled.

The trustees elected for 1861 were Atherton Hall, Randolph C. Johnson and E.A. Martin, with H.H. Webster and Joseph from the previous term. Three made a quorum and many meetings had but three trustees to attend to village business. Perhaps that was the reason for tabling so many bills until the next meeting. Other officers were A.J. Long, clerk; Isaac C. Griswold, A. J. Briston and Hiram Dickenson, assessors; John S. Smith, collector; H. W. Buel, treasurer; Mr. Merrill, harbor master.

Village services were more easily handled when District 1 could be the west side of the creek including the upper bridge and District 2 could be the east side including the lower bridge. Jerome Wilson was the street commissioner for the east side and Justin A. Smith for the west side. He also had the duty of superintendent of the water works.

The highway commissioners were chosen the same way; R. C. Johnson on the east side and H. H. Webster on the west. E. A. Martin was the finance committee head, John C. Chapman and Earl May fire wardens. Police constables were George Pardo and Stephen Cozzens, Samuel Swan became pound master.

A matter of the hitching post on Blair's lot arose. H. H. Webster was appointed investigator and it took five weeks to find that the village was not liable for the rent of the lot.

The water commissioner was asked to investigate the right of Widow Boardman to use the village water free. It took him one week to find that the main water pipe passed across the land of the late Cyrus Boardman when the waterworks were owned by George Pettibone. An agreement between these two men by which some springs of water on the Boardman land were taken into the water line for which Boardman was to allow \$10 per

year. The village purchased the water line from Mr. Pettibone, right, title, and interest, subject to all encumbrances. If the village collected rent from Mrs. Boardman they should pay the rent on the leases. A motion to allow Mrs. Boardman free rent was passed

The street commissioner were ordered to remove all obstructions in the highway especially those in Canal Street in District 1 near the mill of E. E. Davis and in District 2 those in Skene Street near the dwelling of H. Mc Cotter.

Some bills were carried over a long period of time. In 1861 H. Fosdick was paid \$50 for a hose cart which he had made in 1858. Bascom & Gaylord were paid for oil and soap for a fire engine used in 1858.

A request for a Sunday policeman was tabled but two night watchmen were paid for the night of 12 July reason not stated.

A request for building an engine house for Torrent No. 1 was reported favorably. During the year bills for, labor and material for the building were paid. I suspect the original house was in the fire of 1860.

In July, R. Johnson and H. H. Webster were appointed to devise ways and means to rebuild the east half of South Bay Bridge. A contract was given to S. S. Cozzens for \$275 for repairing the bridge and between \$30 and \$40 was raised by subscription.

The Whitehall Times November 9, 1978

Village Records 1860's Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The latter part of 1862 was marred by the appearance of smallpox. So severe was the condition that on 14 January 1863 the board of trustees organized themselves into a board of health.

As a means of preventing the spread of the disease A. D. Gibbs was authorized to investigate any case reported to him and take all necessary steps to restrain any person from the infected families moving about the streets. The families so afflicted, if in need, were to receive necessary supplies and assistance to care for the sick. John Brett was authorized to furnish such supplies under direction of President Atherton Hall. Dr. A. J. Long was authorized to act as physician in all such cases.

In May 1863 the house belonging to John O'Reilly, known as the McCotter house, was to be rented for \$4.00 a month and fitted up as a hospital for smallpox victims. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas were employed at \$2.00 a day to take care of the sick. President Hall and Anson Parks was the committee to superintend the affairs of the hospital.

After this year's records, newspaper accounts of the trustees' reports were pasted in the record book. From them are accounts that were not entered in the minutes. In this case it was reported that the expenses of the epidemic were to be paid by the county board of supervisors, according to an understanding with them. They had authorized \$300 toward the bills of \$475 and would audit and pay the rest. In the meantime the trustees felt the people concerned should be paid.

They authorized to raise a tax of \$475 1 February 1864 to pay the debt of the village. This would be repaid to the Superintendent of the Poor when the village was reimbursed by the board of supervisors.

On 15 June 1863 the board heeded a request of the citizens and ordered a new street to be cut through from Williams street to Mountain Street, two rods wide. It would run between the dwelling houses of Mrs. Caroline Root and Joseph Potter. Mr. Potter at that time lived on the southwest corner of present McCotter in the house later of Dr. Ernest Horton and now a parking lot. The new street went through the lands of Joseph Potter, William Tierney and the J. Harris Estate. President A. Hall, I. C. Griswold and Anson Parks were appointed a committee to survey and open the street.

On 27 July 1864 this new street on the east side of the creek was named McCotter. No reason was given for the choice but Hugh McCotter was a long time street commissioner of District 2 on the east side.

The J. Harris Estate would not accept this idea and refused to pay the assessment for opening the street. On 1 June 1863 Mr. Hall was sent to make a trade with them. On 9 January 1865 he refunded to the village \$313 from that account to the village board and awarded \$61 to Mr. Tierney and \$65 to Joseph Potter

on account of opening McCotter Street.

In the 1860's Saunders Street from Williams Street to Church (Broadway) was opened. On 8 May 1865 the board resolved to open a new street from Williams to Wood Creek at low water mark, four rods wide. This was the entrance to the corner at Williams and Saunders. The street passed through the lands of M. J. Myers and I. C. Griswold the road located between the yellow house of I. C. Griswold and the brick store occupied by Mr. Polley. At the same time a committee negotiated with M. J. Myers to purchase the blacksmith shop that stood at the south of The Times building as a part of the approach to the bridge

On 4 March 1867 the board started at the west side of the canal from the Parke House Bridge (now Saunders Street Bridge) through lands of Mrs. Lockwood, Mr. Renois, Parke House and the Catholic Church grounds, two rods wide, to Church Street (now _ Broadway).

On 29 April 1867 the board resolved to offer the Roman Catholic Church \$1500 for their lot, and Mrs. Lockwood \$2000 for hers and confer with the other owners as to their price. By 2 February 1868 the opening of the new street, or rather the continuation of Saunders was ordered, with damages of \$3700 assessed.

Complications arose O. C. Burroughs owned land on the north side from Church Street east that lay also next to Fosdick's Alley, between the present Assembly of God Church and Duce's Restaurant that had been left free for the convenience of people of the alley and the members of the Roman Catholic brick church. It took another year to finally persuade Mr. Burroughs to sell his gore of land after adding \$40 to the first price of \$233.33. During this time also Mr. Renois was warned, to vacate the land of the village on the street on which he had built the Renois building in 1867. By 6 November 1869 the business had been completed and Saunders Street addition stretched from Williams Street to Church by A. H. Griswold's. But in the process Whitehall lost its first Catholic Church building.

The Whitehall Times
November 16, 1978

Village Records in the 1860's
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

On 2 October 1863 notice was posted in the newspapers that, according to the Village Charter of 1850 a street would be laid out from South Bay Street to Boardman Street, to warn residents that such action would be taken.

On 15 August 1865, about two years later, the board directed that the village take possession of the lands and premises along the route and collect additional taxes for the purpose. During this year of 1866 West Street was laid out from South Bay to Queen Street. There had been opposition from the resident so that the stretch from Queen to Boardman was not completed until 1870 when the street would be from "back of the new Catholic Church to Queen Street" to be called Pardo Street.

On 15 March 1869 the Street known as South Bay Street which ran from Canal (Broadway) west over the mountain became known as School Street. The name was doubtless derived from the new Union Free School erected at the corner of West and South Bay. As usual in renaming places the first name was still used for a long time.

On 8 May 1865 the new street from Williams Street by the middle bridge had been authorized and by 5 February 1866 had been completed along with two new bridges over Wood Creek and the canal. These connected later with the continuation of Saunders Street.

At the meeting of 26 November 1866 the village constable was directed to warn owners and occupants at Charles Rock's corner of McCotter Street and the Wheeler place on Poultney to discontinue slaughtering animals at these places. On 24 August 1868 authorization was given to O. D. Burroughs of the board of health that the slaughter house on Poultney Street be removed as it and the offal about it had become a nuisance, endangering the lives and health of the village inhabitants. On 10 October 1868 the board appointed trustees Doren and Wilson to see that the directives were complied with.

By 8 June 1869 the Adirondack Spring Company had erected a stoop or piazza on the front of its building on Canal Street. The building committee notified the company to remove it as it was in the highway. The president of the Adirondack Spring Company reported it would not be removed and defied the authority of the village trustees to remove it. The Street commissioner was then ordered to remove the structure and report at the next meeting. No mention was made at the next meeting.

On 13 September 1869 all persons were forbidden to water horses at or near the well on the east side of the creek known as the Mosher Well under penalty of \$1 for each offence and notice of this action was to be posted at the well.

On 29 September 1869 the village appropriated land bounded on the east by Williams Street, on the west by Wood Creek, on the north by John Jallet and on the south by D. P. Nye & Company as a public highway to the creek. On 11 October the notice was repeated but some details were added on the north by John Jallet's land and on the south by the north wall of D. P. Nye & Co. brick building. This places the area north of the

Times Building. On 13 December the committee was ordered "to open the road forthwith."

On 31 May 1869 the village was presented with a quit claim deed by the heirs of the Williams estate of the piece of property south of J. P. Blakeslie's Store and west of the locks, the deed having been sent to the county clerk. The board recorded its thanks. On 20 September 1869 a deed for the same was received from the State of New York in consideration that the Village of Whitehall should furnish a canal collector's office on the first floor of the building to be erected. The terms were accepted and ordered sent to the county clerk's office.

The Whitehall Times November 23, 1978

Village Records in the 1860's Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Associated Reform Church of Whitehall was located on Williams Street together with its parsonage and burying ground. This church on 18 September 1819 united with the Presbytery of Columbia under the care of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States. The Williams Street Cemetery was in the ground of this church and was left behind when the church building site was changed.

On 29 April 1867 the village trustees appointed a committee of three to examine the condition of the fences of the old burying ground on Williams Street and report at the next meeting the expense of putting it in order. No report was recorded and later a committee of two was appointed to investigate the matter of building a fence on the east side of the old burying ground and report to the board the expense of the same.

Two years later 26 July 1869 two others were appointed to inquire into the expenditure of closing the burying ground and procuring other ground for burial purposes and report at the next meeting. They were given time for further study.

Two years later 7 August 1871 O. F. Davis reported on behalf of the citizens on the east side of the creek for the Presbyterian society in relation to this burying ground, regarding the fencing of the grounds and its closing. The citizens felt that since the grounds were full and in the heart of the village they should be closed. The title was in the hands of the Presbyterian Society but the society had surrendered the burying ground to the village 25 years before and it had been kept in repairs by the village. They were asking that the village take steps to close the cemetery in order to preserve the health of the inhabitants residing in its vicinity.

On that date the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved: That the burying ground, on the east side of Wood Creek in the Village of Whitehall, known as the Presbyterian Society Grounds be properly fenced and the same be closed except to those who have private lots in its grounds.

On motion the president of the board of trustees was voted to hire a suitable person to take charge of the aforesaid ground and see that the provisions of the resolution were carried out. The minutes were ordered to be published in the newspaper.

Six special policemen were put on duty in the village for the night of 3 July until the morning of 5 July 1867. The men - Horace Stowell, Patrick Kinney, J. R. Livingston, Julio B. Benjamin, Thomas Knight, Warren G. Hagar, George Yule — were paid \$4.50 for their services.

4 February 1869 George Yule was directed to raise a portion of Bellamy Street between the east line of Mrs. Neddo's dwelling and the foot of Bellamy Street with stone and dirt two feet in height and 16 feet wide for \$200. On 27 March he was paid for the work.

On 26 July 1869 the minutes said a road four rods wide would, be opened from Bellamy Street to Buell's Street parallel to the Rensselaer and Saratoga Railroad. The west side of the road to run within two rods of the center of the main track. Buel street (also known as Dwight street), ran west from the railroad track parallel to Bellamy. Nothing else was said in the minutes and the map of 1875 does not show the proposed road.

Curious? On 9 August 1869, Mr. Wilson was appointed to negotiate with Frank Fish to take charge of the Village Hearse and keep it in as good repair as it now is at his own expense during the pleasure of the trustees. On 23 August Mr. Wilson reported that Mr. Fish would not take the hearse on the trustees' terms. However Mr. Wilson had talked with E. W. and G. A. Hall and they said they: would take the hearse on the trustees plan. The report was accepted.

The Whitehall Times

September 21, 1972

Village Records in the 1869

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The charter of the Village of Whitehall in effect in 1869 was that passed 16 March 1850 with amendments in 1853, 1859, 1861, 1862 and 1869.

Changes In the ways of life and livelihood are made evident in the powers and duties of the elected trustees. They were to see that cattle, horses, sheep and swine and other animals should not roam the streets. Homes did keep cows and pigs for local consumption not too long ago. Can you remember the neighbor who kept a pig or hens, hoping the authorities would not find them?

To see that not more than 25 pounds of powder be kept in any shop or home. Today the dealer in powder, etc, has to have umpteen numbers of licenses.

To purchase fire engines, hooks, ladders and buckets for fire control; to regulate wells, cisterns, reservoirs, conduits and pumps. Some of these terms are unfamiliar to firefighters today. We have passed the day of the fire bucket line and the wells and cisterns. Firemen do not have to man the handles of the fire engine to get a stream of water.

To take, hold, purchase and convey such real and personal estate as may be required for erecting engine, hook and ladder houses and for making cisterns, reservoirs and conduits Can anyone tell where all the hose houses were located? An old deed tells

us that a fire house once stood at the corner of Division and Church Street where the Masonic Temple now is.

To compel inhabitants and any by-standers to form ranks or lines to convey water for extinguishing fires; refusal to obey would be a subject of fine. Many of the fines were \$2.00 and \$3.00 only.

To erect or lease a public pound and appoint a pound keeper to take care of straying animals.

To purchase or lease suitable sites for one or more markets and erect or fit up suitable buildings for the same. Did Whitehall have any such markets? There were so many individual stores here it doesn't seem there was such a need.

To appoint two police constables to arrest all persons for intoxication in the streets on their endangering persons or property in the streets. We have progressed. One Whitehaller told me that on Saturday nights, if one went down street, the progress along Canal Street was hindered by having to step over the many inebriants stretched out on the side walk!

To buy a site and erect a lock-up not to exceed \$1000 for both.

To license public porters, cart men, hackney, coachmen and omnibus drivers. These were common as each hotel had men who met the trains and boats to carry the passengers.

To regulate the speed of running cars, carriages and engines upon any railway and to prevent any unnecessary noise and disturbance during the arrival and departure of any persons in public conveyances. Was this to regulate the trains that went down the main street? So many people identify Whitehall as the place where that happened.

To be a board of health and quarantine and to establish a pest house especially for the control of smallpox and to establish regulations for the periodical vaccination of the children.

To appoint two fire wardens to go into all tenements where there are fires, kept up for any purpose, and examine all chimneys, fireplaces, flues, stovepipes and so forth and require such alterations to be made as are necessary? Have you ever seen an irate householder resenting this "invasion" of her rights?

The Whitehall Times **September 28, 1972**

More of 1869 Rules **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

The Harbor Master was empowered to keep the harbor and channel clear of abandoned timber, vessels and waifs. After a suitable period of time for finding the owner of such property, the materials would be sold for the benefit of the village.

The village was declared a separate road district except for the bridge over Wood Creek. A poll tax on all men and a tax on all property would pay for the upkeep of all streets, sidewalks, and bridges. If a new street were deemed necessary, the village could appropriate the necessary land after proper notice.

No person, driver, or owner of any post coach, omnibus, wagon sleigh, or other vehicle could leave the same in any highway, street, or sidewalk for a space of two hours unless a team or horse should be attached.

There should be no horse racing, immoderate running, or driving of horses or other animals in the streets or highways.

No person should be allowed to ride or drive faster than a walk on any bridge crossing Wood Creek in the village.

No dog should be allowed to run at large in the village during the months of July or August unless its mouth be secured by a strap or muzzle to prevent its biting.

The keeper of any store, grocery, or shop should not be allowed to put into any street or highway oyster shells, decayed fruit or vegetables.

No person should allow any dead animal to remain on his premises more than 24 hours.

No person should be found bathing in the waters of the canal, creek, or lake.

The trustees were authorized to establish a fire department to consist of engine, hose, and hook and ladder; to appoint a sufficient number of firemen, not to exceed 34 to each engine, 10 to each hose, and 15 to each hook and ladder company. The several fire companies should uniform themselves so as to be distinguished from citizens.

Upon the breaking out of any fire, the trustees of the village and the constables should repair to the place of such fire and direct the removal and securing of goods and prevent the same from being stolen, destroyed, or pilfered.

Any person who mutilated, injured, removed, or defaced shade trees, fences, gates, signs or property in the village or put any dirt or filth of any kind in the water works should be fined.

Modes of life, methods of carrying on business, citizens habits of work and thinking change. Laws and regulations necessarily have to change with them. Looking at these former rulings for life in the village, do the "good old days" look as attractive or does the longing for the quiet, leisurely life overlook the disadvantages of the early years?

The Whitehall Times

June 28, 1979

The Village in the 1870's

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

From 26 January 1870 all books and accounts for the water fund shall be kept by the trustees and all bills for water work rates shall be issued to the treasurer as fast as collected.

On 3 March the opening on an alley from Mountain Street to McCotter was to be investigated on 18 March the street to be opened was to be 20 feet in width.

On 11 March the damages on land taken by the trustees for street purposes on the west side of Williams Street next north of D. P. Nye & Co's grist mill and south of J. Jallet's south line were to be investigated. The land in question was supposed to be

owned by D. P. Nye & Co. and William Hagadorn consisting of a gore of land (a triangular piece of land) two inches wide on Williams Street and nine feet wide in Wood Creek. The village would pay said Nye \$125 as damage for the piece 22 feet 8 inches wide on Williams Street and 11 feet 10 inches on Wood Creek to William Hagadorn \$600.

On 11 April the trustees determined to erect a building on the lot south of J. P. Blakeslees store and west of the canal locks according to plans and specifications to be adopted by the Building Committee with a mortgage for the construction. On 29 June Alwyn Martin was to put in the foundation. On 5 September bids were received for building the Market Building. On 23 January 1871, the new building under construction was under contract with Alwyn Martin and Henry G. Burleigh for \$11,606.35 with a mortgage for five years. The board of trustees would retain control of renting the post office part of the building. The canal collector's office was to be free to the state according to agreement with the state when the real estate was acquired from it. All other parts were to be rented by Martin and Burleigh for the time they had control.

On 4 April 1870 a poll tax of one dollar on each male inhabitant of the village over 21 years and over was levied.

On 4 April a new lamp post was ordered to take the place of one broken at Chapin's alley by D. B. Allen's store. On 6 June the Steam Fire Engine No: 3 arrived from Button & Son, Waterford.

On 5 September 1870 a motion to open two roads on lands of Justin A. Smith was made, the streets to be called Smith and a continuation of West Street. On 3 October the land to be taken was outlined - a piece of land immediately in the rear of the New Catholic Church (O.L.A.) bounded at end by Boardman and Queen Streets and containing 28 rods more or less and from the north east corner of Thomas Knight's land on Queen Street to Boardman Street 28 rods more or less. This was to be called Smith Street. On 10 October the village assessed the damages to Justin A. Smith for these two pieces of land to be known as Smith and Pardo Streets. On 30 January this land was found to belong to the village and the payments were rescinded

On 26 December a contract was given to the Whitehall Gas Light Co., 1 December 1870 to a December 1871 to pay \$100 for lighting 24 lamps from early dark until morning, to be paid semi annually, the company to have the benefit of bright moonlight nights. Any extra lights put up during the year to be in the same proportion. On petition it was decided that lamp posts would be erected at the corner of West Street and at the corner of Saunders Street as soon as the gas pipes were laid

On 1 January 1871 the annual report of 1870 was read. The new building (present village building) at the end of the bridge was finished complete at a cost of \$10,903.33.

There were three rooms on the first floor to be used by the fire department. The village hall was on the second floor. The third story was finished off in four rooms for the use of the village. In the basement the lockup contained four cells and a receiving room.

On 6 February 1871 Charles Chaplin moved that since there was not sufficient pure water there would be three water commissioners appointed to determine the best modes for obtaining a better supply to meet present demands increasing demands and report to the board on or before 1 December 1871. He suggested 3 members to be Elisha Martin, Taylor Manville and P. W. Scribner.

On 30 March 1871, Mr. Wilson had permission to sell Engine House No. 1 on Division Street and to notify Mr. Chapin the village would not require the grounds after the sale.

On 10 April, S. C. Bull and 26 other petitioners petitioned for the establishment of a police force in the village

On the same night Honorable Joseph Potter presented an instrument dedicating to the village a new street, opened by him, connecting Poultney Street and Wheeler Avenue. Thus Potter Street was accepted.

The village authorized a fire company to be formed and an engine station at or near Ames upper mill (near the present Rt. 4 & 22 intersection) for the protection of the property in that vicinity. The signer, J. P. Adams was to form the company to be known as Engine No. 1. An engine and hose were to be placed at his disposal.

The Whitehall Times

July 5, 1979

The Village in the 1870's

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

On 1 May a committee of three was appointed to investigate the building of a dock on the property between Nye's Foundry and Jalet's shop.

15 May, 1871, Justin A. Smith called attention to the cannon which he had procured for the village in its exposed condition on the mountain. He asked that it be placed in a more secure position. Mr. Wilson was appointed to investigate.

A kerosene lamp was ordered to be placed at the post standing at the corner of Mountain Street and Wilson Alley.

On 12 June a motion to open a new road from the railroad track to Saunders Street be referred to a committee of the whole. On 19 June it was resolved that in the interest of the public such a road should be laid out and indicated in a survey the lands to be annexed. The survey began at a stake a little east of A.H. Griswold's old hotel (by the steamboat landing), through the natural ravine and over the stones excavated by the Saratoga and Rensselaer Railroad, then parallel to the railroad tracks leading to the center of the road by Peter Mondor's house, then along the center of the road parallel to the railroad until it met a point striking at right angles to Saunders Street at a point north of A. H. Griswold's farm house on Saunders. This was the Elbow road.

The owners of the land, A.H. Griswold, Charles Tatro, Joseph Daniel, Peter Mondor and the railroad company objected to the terms and the matter went to trial. On 12 September a tax was levied to pay for the, road, \$650.

On 26 June, Miss' Richmond was allowed to use the village hall two afternoons a week for dancing lessons. She was to give the janitor \$1 each day.

On 7 August, a resolution was passed to close the burying ground on the east side of Wood Creek known as the Presbyterian 'Societies' grounds, and that it be properly fenced. Only those who had private lots could use the grounds; Zebulon was hired to see that these provisions be kept, his pay being the grass that he cut from the land.

On 7 August, Mr. Wilson was authorized to take down the walls, north and south, of the old Phoenix Hotel as much as was necessary for safety. This must have been the Phoenix on Williams Street as the first Phoenix on Canal by the locks was burned sometime in the 1850s.

On 21 August a plank walk two planks wide was to be laid the entire length of Potter Street and a proper approach be made at the corner of Potter and Poultney Streets; also at the corner of Davis and Poultney Streets.

On 5 September, Joseph Wilson was given an order to clean Moshier's well on Williams Street. This was one of the important springs of Whitehall for pure water.

On 12 September, the village offered a reward of \$50 for the arrest leading to the conviction of person who set fire to Joseph Wilson's barn and breaking into Eddy and Kingsley's drug store.

On 18 December, Dr. H. K. Bennet reported that 1,000 children under five years of age had never been vaccinated. He requested an edict for their vaccination; in the event they could not pay for the service, the village would. A smallpox epidemic was raging in nearby towns and he suggested the inhabitants take proper steps for themselves and families.

In November the village had given over to the state by indenture certain rooms in the brick building forever for use of the canal collectors on Canal Street.

This ended 1871's village records.

The Whitehall Times

July 5, 1979

The Village in the 1870's

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The water supply for the village was an ever present topic. In early 1872, Elisha A. Martin had been asked to investigate the water supply with a committee. In February, he reported that he had not been able to work with the committee. Rather disgustedly, he said he had had the same duty 20 years ago and his opinion was still the same: Only a good supply could be obtained from Granville River and Castleton Pond which would be too expensive.

In case of fire the east side could get water from the creek. When there was no water in the canal (the two were separate in the village at that time), the west side would be entirely unprotected. He recommended the construction of reservoirs to contain water for fire purposes, one at or near the crossing at West and Saunders Streets; one near the corner of South Bay (School) Street and Lafayette Street; one at Smith between Queen and Boardman Streets. He also recommended that the present water debt be paid off at the rate of \$2,000 annually by taxation for that purpose.

There's an oft time expression, "The health authorities ought to attend to that." In April, 1872, Dr. H. K. Bennett, health officer, reported to the village board these places as nuisances. The locations can be guessed at:

The slaughter house of Mrs. Webster occupied by S. P. Whitney; the yard premises on West Street owned by Charles Chapin, north of his brick building tenement house

opposite the rear of the Presbyterian Church; the yard and premises of Mrs. Charlotte M. Avery's tenement building between Division and Saunders streets; the vacant lot owned by Charles Chapin where the old Engine house stood on Division street; the report was accepted by the trustees and the health officer ordered "to abate."

A year later citizens petitioned to have obstructions removed from Lafayette Street, nuisances and obstructions removed from Skene Street, and abatement of the slaughter house on the east side of the creek.

On 17 December 1873 the by laws were amended to read: No person shall place or deposit on the sidewalks, in the public streets, lanes, alleys, squares, or landing places in the village except by permission of the trustees any lumber, wood, stone, sand, ashes, garbage, rubbish, vehicles of any description or any article or articles that may encumber the same or any person refusing or neglecting to remove such article or articles immediately and with all reasonable dispatch upon written or printed order of the trustees or street commissioner shall forfeit a sum not less than three dollars.

On 31 December 1873 Charles Vayette received \$18 for removing a dead horse.

The Whitehall Times July 19, 1979

The Village in the 1870's Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Mason O. Blinn presented this paper to the village board of 22 February 1873. He executed it 27 January.

Know all men by these presents that I, M. O. Blinn, of the Town of Whitehall, being desirous for the accommodation of the public and those owning lots in the vicinity of the premises above described and myself do by these presents consent to dedicate the premises and lands situate in the Village of Whitehall fully described in the annexed papers and according to a map made by L.W. Wright for Blinn and Vaughn in May, 1869, and recorded in the County Clerk's Office reference thereto being held to the Village of Whitehall for the uses and purposes of streets and highways and this dedication is upon the express condition and agreement upon the part of the said village and trustees thereof that the same shall be occupied and worked by said village and its trustees at all times as one and the same as other streets and highways in it and their charge and control. In Witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal. Jan'y 27, 1873. (Executed January 27, 1863, J.S. Potter, Notary)

M. O. Blinn

At the same meetings deeds were given to the village and accepted by the trustees. Explanations of the several streets were given, shortened here: "Several highways having been laid out by Daniel G. Percival, George A. Hall, Samuel T. Cook, Uriah H. Coffin, and Horatio A. Griswold, trustees of the village . . . of lands belonging to me

These were First Avenue, Second Avenue, Third Avenue, Fourth Avenue, Vaughn Street and Blinn Street. The avenues were to be 42 feet wide and the streets 49½

feet wide. The accompanying map was made by L. W. Wright for Blinn and Vaughn May 1869.

Mason Ormsby Blinn, 1809-1885, came to Whitehall from Ticonderoga via Shoreham, Vt., at 19 years of age. He and his brothers signed the 1842 petition asking that towboats not be allowed to arrive in Whitehall on Sunday, the Presbyterian (and probably others) attitude that brought about the Six-Day Packet Boat Line of W. Travis. He lived on Williams Street in the present home of Leslie Benjamin.

During the first years of his business life he was in the mercantile trade with E. W. Parker. But needing more outdoor life, he became a real estate broker and amassed a fortune in that trade. One of his holdings was a large farm in the southern part of the village corporation. This he developed into lots for sale. His philanthropic nature resulted in the gift of the above mentioned streets to the village. He married his first wife, Phoebe Vaughn, sister of Thomas T. Vaughn, another outstanding individual of Whitehall. This accounts for the Vaughn name in the deeds.

His father, Eben, and his brother Elisha Blinn were buried in the now closed 'Williams Street Cemetery.

The Whitehall Times **October 5, 1978**

The First Town Record - 1873 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Interesting items appear in the old records if one can get amid the long about way of saying this in the **aforementioned** and **said** and **whereases**.

On 4 April, 1783, the town board passed this resolution. It was still in the time of high feelings about the Revolution. Any person who had been, since the Declaration of Independence, in the power of the King of Great Britain, voluntarily joining and taking part against the Liberties of America should be debarred and excluded from being an inhabitant of this town (it was written Skenes-borough).

However, if such a person who had been pardoned and could produce a certificate properly authorized saying he, she, or they had been good and faithful friends to the freedom and Independence of America, he would not be debarred from becoming an inhabitant.

Each and every person was required not to employ to work, harbour, or conceal any person who had been an enemy to the Liberty of America or any transient, straggler, or stranger unless that person could produce a lawful certificate. Any person who did so would incur the highest displeasure of the inhabitants of the town and would not be deemed worthy of any public office.

Roaming animals were a problem and many laws had to do with them or fences to detain. At this same 4 April, 1783, meeting a description of a fence was given. All fences should be four feet six inches high made of good stuff and well laid. No hole from the earth three feet upward should be more than six inches and from that to the top should not exceed 12 inches. It would be deemed unlawful to impound any creature which was

deemed a commonder unless the field in which such creature be enclosed with a fence of the above dimensions.

Towns tried to protect themselves from having to care for the poor from other areas. At the 28 June 1793, town meeting two men from Galway presented a bond for their mother who evidently had come to Whitehall to live. The town received this bond of \$500 and agreed that as long as the two men maintained at their own expense, or caused to be maintained, this mother and that she would not become chargeable to the town the bond would become void.

In 1805 the town evidently had troubles with animals running loose. By-laws established that stallion colts, one year or older, should not run at large under penalty of \$2; that rams should not run at large under penalty of \$2 ; that hogs, pigs and sows should not run at large under penalty of 50 cents. If anyone should catch the animals that were running at large, they were authorized, if no one claimed them within six days, to put them in the pound.

Horses, sheep and geese should not be free commoners. If they did any damage, they could also be confined to the pound, whether the fence was lawful or unlawful.

The Whitehall Times August 2, 1979

Village Records in the 1870's Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

1881 **WHITEHALL, N. Y.** 1892

Burleigh Corps Socials.

—PRÆSIDIUM—

Yourselves and Ladies are Invited to attend a series of
Military Socials to be given by the Burleigh Corps at
their Armory, on the evenings of

DEC. 9th, 1881, -	MUSIC:—Doring's Orchestra,	Troy, N. Y.
DEC. 29th, 1881, -	" " "	" " "
JAN. 27th, 1882, -	" Holding's "	Albany, "
FEB. 17th, 1882, -	" Doring's Full Band,	Troy, N. Y.

Reception Committee.—Blue Badge.

R. E. BASCOM,	J. H. PARKE,	K. R. DAVIS.
E. PITTENGER,	R. H. WILCOX,	R. A. HALL

Floor Committee.—White Badge.

F. F. FOLLET,	T. A. PATERSON,	E. P. NEWCOMB,
H. C. JILLSON,	L. H. CARRINGTON,	F. SPENCER

Dancing \$1.00. - - - Concert and Dance \$1.00 - - - Concert 25 Cts.
Concert 8:00, p. m., Dancing 9:30, p. m.

Socials were an important part of Whitehall's entertainments, especially those of the Burleigh Corps and the several fire companies, during the latter part of the 19th

century. This is an announcement from the George King collection, given to the Historical society. The armory at this time was in the Anderson building.

Village Records in the 1870s

In 1874 Amos Morris was paid \$25 for winding the village clock for a year and H. A. Griswold, jeweler, was paid \$25 for cleaning and caring for it.

In 1875 the trustees noted that the mortgage on the Whitehall Merchant Building, held by Burleigh and Martin, could be purchased. The rents derived from it were \$1660 for February. The suggestion was made to sell bonds to be paid off in 11 years. By December the bonds were finally authorized.

In May, 1875, there were three cases of smallpox at the Elbow. Dr. W. H. Renois was authorized to isolate them by using the house the cases were in. Later \$75 was paid to the doctor and the various people who had attended the cases.

The town clerk's records could be kept in the village hall by the payment of one half the expenses. Two months later the town rented the use of the village rooms at \$40 a year.

In June, 1874, the street workers were directed to use wooden drains when practicable.

D. Sharon was appointed agent to number the houses and lots in the village, without compensation.

In September 1875, the trustees resolved that since E. W. Hall had equipped the Opera House to be an ornament to the village, all companies giving entertainment in it to be exempt from obtaining a license.

The foot bridge, instead of being rebuilt, was to be repaired the amount not to exceed \$150. It was repaired for \$103.75.

Twelve fire carts were to be divided among the fire companies: Whitehall Steamer No. 3, 3; Independent No. 1, 3; W.H. Cook Engine No. 5, 2; Torrent No. 2, 2. If a cart were used for any purpose other than that of fire duty, the carts should be taken from them.

In May, 1874, a committee was appointed to present plans for an engine house to be erected on A. McFarren's land. Joseph Wilson's bid of \$699.99 was accepted. By 19 Aug. the building was completed. The land for the building was on the east side Of Canal Street (Broadway) opposite Queen Street a bit to the north, approximately on the Broadway Market site.

The Whitehall Times
August 9, 1979

Hot Times in the Village
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The year 1876 must have been an exceptionally warm one weather wise and village affairs wise. Could the weather have affected the behavior of the citizens? But the parliamentarian, in this case the president of the village board, kept cool in what must have been extremely warm debates.

The village charter forbade the trustees to make an indebtedness exceeding \$500 over what had been voted for taxes. On 7 February the board had voted \$1500 for the contingent fund. By 20 April the indebtedness of the village had become, with unsettled demands, over \$3,000.

A special meeting 9 May at 2 p.m. was called to raise a tax of \$3,000. The meeting must have been exciting with all the motions, amendments and withdrawals of motions. The motion of \$3,000 was put, amended to \$1,000 and laid on the table. The motion was taken from the table and one for \$4,000 was made followed by one to pay off the indebtedness.

A roll call was taken but declared illegal as it should have been by ballot. Motions followed — one for \$1,000 and the second for \$500. A move to adjourn to a meeting 11 May at 2p.m. closed the 9 May meeting.

On 11 May the motions continued for \$1,000, \$3,000 and \$1500. The chair declared them out of order as the original purpose of the meeting was for the sum of \$3,000. The ballot on this amount was 88 noes, 23 ayes.

At the 6 June regular meeting the freeholders asked for a special tax meeting on 14 June to raise \$2,000 in addition to what was voted 1 February for debts to the first of April. On this date the vote for \$2,000 was defeated by 51 noes to 50 ayes. The freeholders tried again asking for another meeting to vote on \$2,000. On 27 Jun the noes were 93 the ayes 38.

On 24 July lawsuits against the village were being initiated for debts up to 4 April. The board voted to defend any suit. On 26 September the Finance Committee reported that the \$1500 authorized 1 February had been paid out but amounts for which a tax had not been voted were \$2100.

On 9 October the estimated deficiency was \$4,000 and. the board stated that for the sake of saving village property from a sale, the taxpayers must devise some plan to raise the amount. On 23 October a special meeting voted 26 to 4 to raise a tax of \$2100. On 20 December at last the president and the clerk were authorized to draw an order on the treasurer for settling the orders in the suits. Were the freeholders cooled off, worn down, or become sensible?

1876 was the year of the nation's centennial. The National Board of Underwriters asked that village citizens take great care in celebrations and to make preparations for the extinguishment; of fires — to establish safeguards and precautions. The village board responded by printing Section 14 of the village charter: No person shall be allowed to fire guns or make use of fire works, squibs, or crackers of any kind within the bounds of the

village under penalty of \$3 for each and every, offense. Citizens were urged to obey and officers to enforce the penalties.

On the approach of this hot season citizens were reminded of the importance of cleaning cellars, sewers, gutters, outbuildings and premises generally by removing and clearing everything causing offensive odors or having a tendency to generate disease — to prevent the introduction of disease and modify the expenditures of the Board of Health.

Section 15 of the charter stated it should not be lawful for a keeper of a shop or grocery or any other person to allow any casks, boxes, barrels, crates, wooded or other property to be on the streets for more than three hours under penalty of \$2, or any oyster shells, decayed fruit or vegetables under penalty of \$5, or any dead animal for 24 hours, or any pit, cellar or excavation to remain open to cause offense or injury.

This occurred at a time in Whitehall when the water supply was insufficient for household use and fire protection and when the village board was wrestling with the question of many unsolved arson cases.

The Whitehall Times August 16, 1979

The Village in the 1870's Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

On the 23 of January of 1875, it was noted that the water supply was not sufficient for the village. On 6 September it was decided to postpone discussion of the condition and appoint a committee to investigate the source of water at Long Pond.

On the 22 January, 1876, Water Commissioner H. Blinn made his annual report to the board. The water pipes from Smith's Pond to Adams Pond had become very decayed, having been in use so many years. They could not endure the pressure and leaked in many places. They were beyond repair and would have to be supplied with new pipes or the whole system would fail. The ponds were inadequate in extent and there was a deposit of vegetable matter in them rendering them impure. At small cost they could be cleaned and enlarged to supply a sufficient amount of water.

To carry the water, new pipes between Smith's and Adam's ponds and a main main would increase capacity through the village streets. A portion of the main could be used between the two ponds. A judicious use of \$10 000 could enlarge and improve the water lines to furnish the village with abundant pure water for domestic purposes.

The street commissioners recommended new six inch iron pipes from Adams Pond through Canal Street to a point near Capt. H. T. Tisdale's house and old pipes between the ponds and on the streets that it would answer for and that the Ponds be cleaned out at low water and be raised. They named no amount.

At the 7 February, Peter Hogan, civil engineer from Albany, gave his estimate to the village for supplying water from Long Pond. His report said the distance from Long Pond, 6 ¼ miles, would involve excavation of four miles for piping and the crossing of

South Bay and the marsh, gate houses and embankment of the pond. The total cost of \$214,415.65.

Mr. Hogan reported the pond was 450 feet above the village, a mile in length, one fourth mile in width and 20 feet deep with 96 inches of water over the weir. By raising the dam ten feet sufficient water could be stored for dry times. He gave also facts about the three reservoirs in the village. He and his assistant, Mr. Knight, had examined them and believed they should be done away with. Upper reservoir area 100 by 200 feet, 3 feet depth of water, water shed 25 acres, elevation above canal 385 feet.

Middle reservoir: 200 by 250 feet depth 3 feet, water shed 100 acres, elevation 310 feet to the top of the wall.

Lower reservoir: 250 by 100 feet, depth 8 feet, water shed 225 acres, elevation above canal 150. He submitted a map. He noted that the village report contained only two days observation and that his report covered one month's observation.

The committee that hired Mr. Hogan recommended that his report was the most feasible for a supply of water. This report was laid on the table as Mr. Blinn's had been the month before. Mr. Hogan was paid \$450 for his investigation. Before the meeting was ended, Mr. Blinn's report was taken from the table and a motion to fill \$1,000 in the space he had left vacant in his report. An amendment changed the \$1,000 to \$1 and the motion was carried. This ended the water supply question for 1876.

Streets were considered in 1876. On 4 March a petition was made to open a new street from Saunders to Warren Lamb's mountain lot and referred to a committee. On 1 June, land conveyed to the village by Warren Lamb and T. S. MacLachlin for a public highway was accepted and the motion adopted. However a quit claim deed had been given on 12 March 1875. On the 1875 map such a street is shown but not labeled. Could this be Fern Street?

On 4 May it was decided that the west side of Canal (Broad) Street be widened on a line from the northeast corner of H. T. Gaylord's brick store (at the corner of Clinton and Canal (Broad)) to the southeast corner of Mrs. Wheeler's house (the second building north from Bellamy Street. All east of it should be included in the street and the people paid for their property. Consequently Mrs. Dill, on 3 July, was paid in full for her property from Mrs. Wheeler's house to Gaylord's store. This included the land on which her lake house had stood at the corner of Canal (Broad) and Clinton Avenue. Clinton Avenue at that time ran from Williams Street across the lower bridge to Church (Broadway) street.

On 21 August the property owners and others asked that the portion of Canal Street from Myers (Barber's) corner north be changed to Broad Street or Broadway. A look at an early map shows this to be reasonable as Canal Street made a fairly sharp bend there because of the old canal bed and really ended at the buildings in the triangle beside the locks. On 27 November the street name was changed to Broad Street.

On 27 November another street was suggested but denied from the Middle Bridge to Mountain Street. This action was reported with a map in an earlier column.

The Whitehall Times
October 20, 1983

A Night Policeman's Book - 1875
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A night policeman's book for 1875 contains some bits of interest in Whitehall. He covered the streets quite thoroughly every night on his rounds, reporting on street lights out, doors unlocked, fires, and men who roamed the streets after 11 p.m.

The names of the same half dozen men were recorded over and over again. They were fighting, intoxicated, or just staying out late--giving the watchman exercise keeping track of them. It was also a bit of a dangerous job, as he was shot at twice, hit with a stone, and bitten, besides being the butt of abusive language. It must also have been disturbing to bring charges against a man (and it was always an Irish man) and have the judge dismiss the charges or fine the particular culprit five dollars and costs. If the fine could not be paid, the sentence was sixty days in jail.

The routes were over the middle bridge, down Williams Street, and over either the lower bridge or the foot bridge, and up Canal Street. To help out in some instances were private watchmen at the mill, Renois' place and two hotels, Lake House and Dill House at the lower end of the village.

One night at 1:30 a.m. a man jumped out of Griswold's two story window into the yard, got up and started into the street. It seemed he had gone into the building intoxicated and fell asleep. When he woke up, he couldn't get out except by jumping out the window.

Another part of the duty was to try the doors of the business firms and report to the owner if they were open or lock the door himself. Some businesses needed only one such happening but others were repeats. From the list are some businesses not mentioned or located, in advertisements: Denison's Store, Robert Irwin's Match Factory, Joseph Wilson's Carpenter Shop and Renfield's Upholstery.

There were robberies. A man came in from Rutland and while at the depot was robbed of fifteen dollars. A man coming out of High Street (he was from New York) was caught by the collar and told he must treat his three assailants. He refused and they pulled him nearly to Clinton Street. When the policeman came in sight, they released him and ran up an alley. An attempt was made to break into the store of Chapin and Allen at Division Street through the rear window. They did not succeed but one man left his track in the snow, a No. 10 very narrow.

Another bit of attention had to be given to the lights. The policeman reported which ones were out, relit some and saw they were out in the morning. Then there were fires. The Renois building kerosene safe was set afire though the person who set it was not caught; On April 6, 1875 the South Canal Railroad Bridge was entirely destroyed and an attempt was made to set the railroad canal bridge afire with shavings and saturated with kerosene. A candle was afire in the box.

From this account it would seem that more than one policeman was needed. No wonder that the larger establishments had watchmen of their own to help in the work.

The Whitehall Times
August 23, 1979

The Village in the 1870's
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

On 14 August 1876, the village board granted P.T. Barnum the exclusive privilege to exhibit within the corporation of Whitehall on Monday 28 August 1876.

The Whitehall Times noted the event as news with Barnum's advertisement. As this year was the nation's centennial year. P.T. Barnum put together a "Colossal Centennial Exposition" which took three immense trains of his own steel cars to carry.

His advertisement with illustrations listed: P.T. Barnum's New and Greatest Show on Earth; 1100 Persons and 600 Horses and Ponies employed by it: Its Menagerie 100 Per Cent the Largest Ever Moved; 60 Cages of Rare Animals and Amphibia; The Only Living Hippopotamus in America; The Most Memorable of Moral Values; A Centennial Portrait Gallery; \$2,000 Per Day in Salaries; 100 Peerless Principal Performers; A Triumphal Procession.

The Times reported afterwards an excellent circus but many could not see the procession as the large chariots and immense platforms could not pass through many of the streets.

On 26 January 1877 the village board noted that a large amount of the highway fund went for the purchase of planks for sidewalks which required frequent renewals. Slate flagging could be purchased at a cost but little exceeding that of pine planks. It was suggested that true economy would require renewals of sidewalks in some parts of Broad and Canal streets and recommended that a tax of \$500 be raised to buy slate. The money was carried in a notion but on 18 June the street commissioner was authorized to purchase lumber to rebuild walks on Saunders Street from Church to Canal the east side of Church Street and on Canal street from J. Brett's Store (American Legion Hall) to the railroad crossing, and from Doren's shop (Scott building on Williams street) to the Opera House (Corner of Mountain Street or American Alley).

The first slate to be used was authorized on 2 July when "rough slate to connect walk between the two bridges on the new road" was not to exceed \$25.

In June 1877, a decision was made to purchase a new street sprinkler for \$150. Soon after G. A. Hall, a merchant, was granted the privilege of painting his advertisement on the sprinkler if he paid the freight and the repainting. The sprinkler cost \$200.

The village board had ways of getting work done without remuneration in cash. James Goodale could have the grass from the old cemetery if he would cut it and take care of the cemetery; H. Root, a Civil War soldier, could have the use of the village hall once a month for the veterans use if he would keep the place clean; Street Commissioner B.F. Holcomb would have a salary of \$400 but he would have to keep the foot walks on the bridges clear of snow and the walk between the upper bridge and the footbridge clean on his own expense; in answer to the taxpayers petition. Dennis Harrigan was appointed police constable without compensation.

And the postmaster was directed to clean the windows of his office in the village building on Canal Street!

The Whitehall Times
September 6, 1979

The Village in the 1870's
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Many citizens remember the D&H Canal company tracks ran along Broadway (now) from the station yard to the tunnel. In April, 1878, the village trustees notified the railroad company that planks should be laid between the tracks from the crossing near the tunnel to Boardman. In August they employed a lawyer to notify the D&H to make a continuous crossing between the tunnel and the switch and to supply a flagman at each end of the tunnel. At this time also they decided to employ an attorney to attend to the legal matters of the village.

In 1878 the residents of the French Settlement asked for a sidewalk on the south side of Williams street. The term "French Settlement" was used in earlier times for the section that we now call "Around the Mountain." Wouldn't it be nice, historically, to revert to the first name?

Does anyone know what happened to the fire bell that was on the village building and the cannon fired when it was installed?

On a rainy Saturday 23 November 1878 this account was placed in the village board minutes:

At ten o'clock this forenoon the new fire alarm bell, manufactured by Meneely and Kimberly of Troy, was placed in position and ready for service. Chief Engineer Charles Chaplin having placed on the bridge the cannon found a few years since in Whitehall Harbor, which was probably used in the Revolution or the War of 1812, (now in the possession of Julian A. Watkins) with orders to have it fired at the christening and ringing of the bell. At ten o'clock Chief Engineer Chaplin delivered a short address to the firemen and citizens assembled on and around the engine house and breaking a bottle of wine on the bell christened it "The Firemen's Bell of Whitehall."

The bell was then rung by John Townsend and Charles Farmer — two veteran firemen — and for an hour the hills and mountains echoed to the clanging tones of the "Firemen's Bell" and loud booming of the cannon.

Inscription:

"1878"

Village of Whitehall

Trustees

Martin Sawyer, President

William Sinnott,

Augustus P. Cooke,

George Knights,

George A. Hall.

DeWitt C. Smith, Clerk

Charles Chapin, Chief Engineer F.D.

Thomas A. Paterson, Asst. Engineer F.D.

In September, 1878, the board was petitioned by 57 citizens to open a street to be a continuation of Cook Street to the canal, running between the residences of S. T. Cook on the north and A. H. Tanner on the south. This was carried and Blinn and Vaughn immediately gave a deed to the village for their land between the west side of Canal (Broadway) to the railroad track in the center of the street. The village empowered the appropriation of the lands for the continuation of the street from the railroad track to the canal, two rods wide, to be called First Avenue or Cook Street.

J. H. Sullivan's new store had been finished (the present Pippo store). They petitioned the village to have the street from their store to the alley by John Brett's store (American Legion) raised 14 inches at a regular slant to be paid for by Mr. Sullivan. Many places in the village have been filled in such manner.

The Whitehall Times
June 26, 1980

The Village in the 1870's
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Enumeration Findings: Population of the Village of Whitehall was about 4400, while that of the town was 5400 in round numbers. This was an increase over 1875 of about 400, but a decrease from 1870.

Health Officer: Within the limits of the corporation, no less than nine putrefied carcasses of horses and mules lie rotting in the sun while numbers of dogs, cats and hogs were lying about the creek, marsh and lake shores, breeding disease among our citizens.

The Whitehall Times
April 16, 1981

The Village in the 1870's
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Editorial comment: In Order that the taxpayers of this village may appreciate what an effective and economical lot of trustees they have, all their attention to the resolution recently passed by them, to discontinue the payment and care of minding the village clock (in the present village building) thereby saving to each; taxpayer nearly one cent a year. Such economy should be appreciated by the taxpayer; (Evidently this stirred up comment, for the next week the topic was being discussed. The clock later was removed to the Presbyterian Church and now rests in Skene Manor.)

The Whitehall Times
November 27, 1975

November 1875
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The board of Supervisors held their meetings in different towns. This month they met at the 'Hall House for business. At the invitation of Superintendent Butler and the Board of Education they visited the public schools which they praised highly. During the evening Mr. and Mrs. George Brett entertained them for a social evening in their home.

The Whitehall Times
March 6, 1980

February 1880
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

People were up in arms. The reason: Granville with the finest farming lands in the county and it's productive and rich slate mines was assessed only \$31 per acre while Whitehall with 10 000 acres of marshes, mountains, rocks and unproductive land was assessed \$39 per acre Supervisor Bull was fighting this "unjust assessment and feeling, ran high over his re-election."

The Whitehall Times
November 6, 1980

November 1880
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The board of supervisors organized a system of reporting what statistics would be kept to record births, marriages and deaths in each town. This resulted in the fact that vital statistics in New York are recorded from that year, at least. During this year the supervisors met monthly in different towns for three days at a time.

The Whitehall Times
December 23, 1971

February 1868
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In February, 1868, Whitehall made an unsuccessful bid to become the county seat of Washington County, according to the proceedings of the board of supervisors.

When the court houses at Salem and Sandy Hill (Hudson Falls) were located, Washington County comprised 8,000 acres or one-fifth the land of New York state. In 1786 the name of Charlotte County was changed to Washington and the area consisted of Warren, Essex, Clinton, Franklin, half of St. Lawrence and land in Vermont east and north of the Battenkill River. The court house at Salem served the area to its east and north, while the one at Sandy Hill served the area to its west and north, both extending to the Canadian line.

With the ceding of land to Vermont and the establishment of the separate counties of Warren, Essex, Clinton, Franklin and St. Lawrence, the location of the court houses made them on the borders of Washington County. The board of supervisors wanted one central court house instead of the two border court houses and made resolutions to that effect.

Argyle made a bid for the location, reasoning that it had the central geographical location; highways converged on it naturally as people traveled more by road than railroad, and that the people of Argyle had pledged to donate \$25,000 for the site and erection of the county buildings -- court house, jail, surrogate's office, treasurer's office, and clerk's office.

Whitehall made its bid through E. A. Martin, its supervisor. The Town of Whitehall authorized him to offer the county a site and the necessary means to erect county buildings on condition of their location in the town and the village of Whitehall.

Salem offered to construct the county buildings if the court house were erected there. These resolutions were tabled until the following day, Feb. 21, when the vote was taken.

The first informal ballot had 15 votes: Argyle 4; Whitehall and Cambridge, 3 each; Fort Ann, Fort Edward, Middle Granville, Salem and Dresden, 1 each. The sixth ballot showed Argyle with 7 votes, Fort Edward with 5 and Salem with 3. It was then decided that the two with the highest be voted on; the first vote was Argyle 9, Fort Edward 5 and Salem 9. A copy of the resolutions of the county board was sent to the members of the Assembly urging them to render valid this action in locating the county seat at Argyle.

Whitehall did not obtain the county seat in 1868 as it had in 1773 when Philip Skene gave 600 acres of land for various public uses. The Council of New York accepted 250 acres for a church, a school house and other public buildings. But quarrels of the New Hampshire Grants and New York State made the people fearful of the "lawless vagabonds" and the court was removed from Skenesborough to the home of Patrick Smith near Fort Edward.

The Whitehall Times
December 30, 1982

December 1882? 1892?
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The County Board of Supervisors met at Sandy Hill, 9 December at the Coffee House with many notable men from all over the county. They were entertained with instrumental music and singing. It seems such meetings of the board in 1882 were entertained socially before going on to the business affairs of the county. During this year the board had corrected the situation they had unearthed of the Superintendent of the Poor having lined his pockets by selling county food and by taking pay for inmates' labor.

The Whitehall Times
June 23, 1983

Whitehall in June 1883
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Village Trustees proposed and later placed gas lamps at the west end of Boardman St, South Bay Street near the Central School, at west end of the lower Bridge, and on the covered bridge (upper bridge) The last one was placed on a bracket instead of a pole to save money.

The Village bought from Joseph Wilson, one of the town's carpenters and builders for highway purposes the land on Williams Street bounded on the north by Fosdick's brick building, on the east by Williams Street, on the south by A. C. Hopson's land, on the south line of the old Mill Lot for \$500. This would be the strip of land north of Liberty Eatery as A. C. Hopson lived north of the present Elks building.

The Whitehall Independent
April 26, 1984

April 1884
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

2 April was the centennial anniversary of the formation of Washington County. On that date in 1784 by the Act of Legislature of this state, the name was changed to Washington, having previously been known as Charlotte. Its area was large, comprising

what now constitutes parts of the counties of Washington, Essex, Warren, Clinton, and Franklin.

The Whitehall Times
April 26, 1984

County - 1884
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

News of the county April 2 was the centennial anniversary of the formation of Washington County. On the second day of April 1884, by the act of the legislature of this state, then in New York assembled, the name of the county was changed to Washington, previously known as Charlotte.

The Whitehall Independent
January 2, 1985

Events in the Summer of 1884
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

It is always a thrill to find bits of information of the times for which we have no records or a run of newspapers. This item was printed in 1884 from a paper found by H. M. Parke "An address, giving a list of Officers of Whitehall Village in 1844."

Trustees - Cyrus Boardman; President Pro-tem Melancthon Wheeler, Dr. Dan S. Wright, John C. Parke, Randolph C. Johnson.

Assessors - Samuel T. Jillson, William W. Cook, William H. Smith.

Overseers of Highways - H. T. Gaylord, District No. 1; H. G. Tisdale, District No. 2; Joseph Goodale, District No. 3.

Treasurer - Andrew Anderson

Clerk - David Wilson;

Captain, Fire Company - H. G. Tisdale;

Village Constable - H. L. Dibble;

Fire Wardens - William B. Harris, George S. Griswold, J. T. Buel, Henry Blinn, B. L.

Dibble, Calvin Jillson;

Harbor Master Henry T. Gaylord.

The Whitehall Times
August 28, 1986

Whitehall in 1886
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

On 15 September 1886 Horace Stowell was appointed Police Justice of Whitehall at 83 years of age. He was deemed competent to perform judicial duties better and more acceptable than men thirty years younger. He was elected sheriff in 1840. He served as Justice of Peace from 1858 to 1862. It was claimed that few men were as able at 60 as Squire Stowell was at 80.

The Whitehall Times
September 18, 1986

The Board of Supervisors in 1886
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In editorial comment the thirteen supervisors of Washington County were welcomed to a meeting in Whitehall: "Gentlemen the latch string of old Skenesborough hangs out. You are welcome."

The meeting lasted from Monday to Friday 29 November to 3 December. They were housed at the Hall House under the proprietor of the time Mr. Galley. When the meeting was over Friday, the citizens of Whitehall tendered them an elaborate dinner.

Clergymen of Whitehall opened the sessions with prayer. One order of business was the acknowledgement of a bill for A. C. Hopson who had advised necessary repairs on the court House at Salem. He was one of Whitehall's leading architects. Money was also appropriated for erecting headstones over the graves of three veterans of the county.

A column of the Times was devoted to biographical Sketches of the seventeen supervisors. These are briefly those of our own and neighboring officers. Dresden's man was George L. Clemons, in office for his fourth term. He had declined a fourth term but on the death of the elected man, he agreed to serve. Born in Dresden in 1841 he served in the Civil War and carried a rebel bullet in his leg. He was engaged in running a store, saw mills, the railroad station, and the post office.

John Hall of Fort Ann was in his third term. He was engaged in banking and had a large interest in the west. Born in Fort Ann he sported a fine head of hair and a full beard.

George W. Henry was representing Granville in his third term. He too had much hair and a moustache. He was a practical joker, a good match for Joker Clemons of Dresden. He was born in Poultney, Vt. and was a hardware merchant.

Hampton's John W. Donahue was the youngest of the Board and in his first term of office. Born in Granville in 1857 he was a farmer and one of the two Democrats of the Board. He was a fluent talker.

Putnam's James Blair was born in 1841 and was educated in Putnam Academy. He was a farmer and in his second year of office. He had a well trimmed beard.

Whitehall's supervisor was Dr. Alfred J. Long, born in Rutland in 1824. He received his education in Castleton, Middlebury, and at New York University. He was a practicing physician and one of the two Democrats. He was adorned with a full beard and a moustache.

The Whitehall Times **February 5, 1987**

Whitehall in 1887 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

The village trustees debated the acquisition of a new safe 31 January, 1887. The village clerk needed a safe for valuable private papers. The fact that the village and town records were destroyed by fire in 1860, reminded them a repetition was possible. The present safe in the office has the date of 1806, the date of the first village charter. So this piece of equipment must now be 100 years this year.

The Whitehall Times **July 18, 1974**

Government – 1898 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

The editor of The Whitehall Times, Milo C Reynolds, devoted quite a number of columns in the 11 August 1898 issue to reproduce the assessors' report for the Town of Whitehall. The assessors who completed the work were E. C. Away, F. C. Ryun and Washington George.

Farms with acreages, houses and lots of individuals and owners of business concerns were listed with their valuations. One notes the absence of many of the well known mercantile firms but that must simply mean that they rented space.

The largest on the tax roll was the D&H RR company, both Rensselaer and Saratoga and Champlain divisions at \$226,000; Champlain Silk Mill with its Hancock Mill, \$50,400; Whitehall Lumber company including its offices, machine shop, coal shed, steam mill, Neddo Ship Yard, barking mill, docks and lumber sheds \$21,700 the Brandon Paint Company located on the George Buel farm (Hanford Austin) \$20,000; S. K. Griswold holdings, \$14,300 including the bank block (Williams Insurance) and the next two buildings (Arcade and Iron Front) and his dock; R. G. Dayton Stores (old Commercial House); John O'Neill's bottling house on South Canal street, new store (Temple of Economy) and two other stores, \$7,850; Peter Renois's two stores at the north

side of Saunders Street facing Canal (Main), \$6,700; I. I. Rush's Anderson Hall block \$5,500; and S. E. Miller's Polly Block \$4,500.

Other ways of making products provide an interesting list. The Arena Marble Company owned 38 acres of land. Besides the Brandon Paint Company there was Eddy and Harris Paint Works and Joseph Potter's gravel bed, stone quarry, and slate quarry in East Whitehall. Whitehall had four creameries: Champlain Valley Creamery, Hudson Valley - Creamery on Poultney Street and at East Whitehall, and the Whitehall Creamery.

Owners of hotels at that time were Michael Donehue, John Davy, Henry Terry and Thomas Paterson (Hall hotel).

Edith Jillson and H. G. Burleigh owned blacksmith shops. Some miscellaneous concerns were John Blakeslee's tin shop, Church Street Opera House, Fisher and Fraser's livery stables, H. B. Martin's slaughter house, John Nichols restaurant, Burleigh and Brothers and Frank Ryon's coal yards, Joseph Wilson's carpenter shop and factory.

Lumber yards were run by Burdett, Haven and Co., Whitehall Lumber Co. Boat Yards were listed under H. G. Burleigh, John Reed's Shipyard and barn, Mrs. John Ryan, Neddo's Shipyard under Whitehall Lumber Co.

Three bank holdings were Merchants National (The Bank), Old National bank (Whiting's) and Griswold's Bank Block (Williams' insurance).

Ice was an important commodity. The commercial ice business was O. A. Horton's at the Creek and on Williams Street; John Davey had one for his hotel, Hiram Skeels for his butcher shop, Whitehall Creamery and Whitehall Lumber Co.

Shops were common. Some uses are known such as Mrs. J. C. Chapman (wood work), James Doren (furniture and coffins), Mrs. A. C. Hopson (building), O. W. Horton, Louis LaCasse, Charles (row boats) Thomas Wilson, Charles Wheeler and George Stafford.

Transportation and communication were served by Kanes Falls Electric Co., Kenyon's Line Co. land, McLachlin gas property, N.Y. and Lake Champlain Towing Co., Telegraph Western Union, Telegraph Postal Co., Telegraph Great North Western, Telephone New England, Telephone, Hudson River, and Whitehall Water Power Co..

The Whitehall Times

January 21, 1888

Supervisors Meeting of 1898

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A copy of this report was found by Frank Martucci behind a wall in his house. It's interesting where such records or papers are found. Happily he did not toss it aside, a thing that many people do. Our research library welcomes such things on Whitehall.

In the nineteenth century and first part of the twentieth travel was not as easy as today. Today it's a matter of a few hours to attend a supervisors meeting and be home again, all in one evening. In earlier times the men, for they always were men, traveled to a different town for a meeting and stayed five days at some hotel. In April 1898 a special meeting was called in Whitehall at the Hall House, site of the Elks. The November

meeting of 1898 was in Middle Granville at the Conintheam Hall, and in December at the Ondawa House in Salem.

Whitehall's supervisor of 1898 was Charles J. Barker, and of Dresden, Harlan A. Walker. The Whitehall supervisor was on the committee of equalization. Justice accounts, miscellaneous accounts and town accounts, at the beginning of each meeting a clergy in the town in which the meeting was held was invited to give the opening prayer.

At the annual meeting supervisor Barker moved that Whitehall Times publish the session laws for the ensuing year. It was carried as was another motion that the Salem Review Press present the official canvas and election. Both were Democratic papers.

In the Poor House during the year an average of 77 people were supported. By deducting their labor on various work they did and the produce they sold, their keep averaged out to 85 cents per week - 1500 pounds of butter, 8700 pounds of pork, 217 pounds of clipped wood, 60 men's shirts made, 31 women's dresses, etc.

The acreage of Whitehall was 31.886 and its valuation \$1,213,249. Its tax was 10,258.03 for state tax, school money, state care of insane, county tax, town expenses, roads and bridges.

There must have been a problem with professional tramps at the county jail. The building committee reported new building for stone breaking purposes. It seems many were retained at the jail so that officials could claim money for them. The committee added this to their report. "We believe that every man in jail should, where the law allows, be put to work at constant hard labor. It is the only defense which the people of this county have against the dirty hordes of tramps who annually infest our jail, not only making our jail a burden, but a school of crime and filth. The labor should be so hard that no professional tramp would ever cross the line into Washington County. How is this to be accomplished? Employ one or two energetic watchmen with enough life to keep warm without a fire and enough energy to make every man keep warm by work or put them on bread and water and in solitary confinement.

Better pay out money to watchmen than to board tramps. Better pay out money for stones and hammers than to build jails!"

The Whitehall Times October 27, 1983

Supervisors Meeting in Whitehall – 1899 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In earlier times, meetings of county supervisors were held in the various towns. On 17 July 1899 the supervisors met in Whitehall's village building at the corner of Saunders and Williams Streets for examination of every town's assessment roll. Nine of the town accounts were examined in the morning and the others in the afternoon by three commissioners from Poughkeepsie, New York City, and Ithaca.

Accompanied by five newspaper editors-Granville Sentinel, Post, Sandy Hill Herald, Greenwich Journal, Whitehall Times--the group of 68 went across the street to the Hall House (BPOE site) where proprietor Thomas Paterson served them lunch. As the

examinations were completed in the afternoon the three state assessors left town by the southern train. Train schedules limited the time of business.

The Board of Supervisors then went into session. Clerk R. R. Law was absent for the first time in over twenty years. Two new Democrats were added to the Board this year, the first in four years. Evander M. (Van) Finch was from Whitehall.

An important question in business was the provision of headquarters for Company I (9th Separate Company). The lease for the armory at that time, the top floor of Anderson Hall had run out. A year's lease for it again could be obtained from I. L. Rush, the owner, for \$500 or \$75 a month. Supervisor Woodruff of Fort Ann and Supervisor Finch of Whitehall were authorized to find temporary quarters for the company until the new armory, then in progress at Poultney and Williams streets, would be ready.

Discussion arose concerning the new armory. It seems the armory was a state building and the troops to use it were state troops. It was argued that the entire cost of the building had been estimated at \$3,000, but the enlarged and elegant quarters being erected would increase the cost. One said "It is a pretty thing for Whitehall but an expensive thing for Washington County". This had not been noted in county affairs since the various localities were eager for armories and counties had given little thought to this expense. The final word in discussion was "It is too late now to discuss this county expense as the contract for the erection of the new armory had closed all debate in Washington County. We can now only audit the bills".

In further business the Board authorized \$6,000 to pay the necessary county expenses. A special deputy was chosen to patrol the bicycle path in Greenwich and Easton. Bicycling activities on special path has come around full circle to the present day. Whitehall used to have bicycle clubs around the turn of the century.

The Whitehall Independent February 6, 1985

Whitehall Chronicle, December 17, 1909 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Village tax was due 13 December. After that date a five percent addition would be collected by Peter B. Matter. The Town tax was due 20 November. After 20 December, C. H. Johnson would add five percent.

The Whitehall Times
April 10, 1986

An Assessment Roll and Tax Roll of 1911
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

An assessment and tax roll can furnish interesting bits of history such as who lived where and when, business properties and location, and a comparison of amounts of valuation and taxes. In 1911 the largest taxpayer in Whitehall was the D&H \$3677.73, next the Silk Mill, \$974.55, and after that Clarence Holden with a full page of properties with a tax of \$364, John O'Neil paid \$328.25 and S. K. Griswold \$381.81. Others in the hundreds were Dr. N. E. Foote, I. Rush, T. J. Smith and Mrs. Sarah Sullivan. A browse through the tax book gives some interesting names and industries.

The Atlantic, Gulf Pacific Company while working on the canal owned six houses and a storehouse.

John Brett owned a cottage and a double house on Church Street besides the store in the American Legion building valued at \$2600.

A.D. Bartholomew owned a hotel on Broad Street.

The Borden Creamery Milk Plant was worth \$8500.

There was the bakery of Martin Brodie on Saunders Street.

Nikolus Bottilieri owned the Cottage Hotel on South Canal Street.

Two churches were taxed for their tenant houses, Trinity and Our Lady of Angels.

The two banks, Merchants National and the National were taxed alike on \$5000.

The Champlain Silk Mills building and machinery were valued at \$70,000 and the Ribbon Factory opposite at \$400.

James Doren and Sons were valued at \$8000 and Arlington Hotel at \$5000.

The Old Village Hall was located on Center Street.

Mrs. E. J. Gray owned the Renois Block and the Gray Building next to it, besides a laundry on Saunders Street.

Dr. Ernest Horton's place on Williams Street, now a parking lot, was valued at \$2200.

The tannery lot on Williams Street, owned by Edith Jillson, was worth \$500.

The Lake Champlain Transportation barns on Bellamy Street were set at \$1000.

A. E. Meyers Castle on School Street was listed at \$8000.

F. C. Ryon and Son's coal shed was set at \$700.

There was a Union Bag and Paper Company with plants at the Elbow and the slip, \$2200.

Burdett and Hyatt lumber yards tax was \$65.73.

The Board of Education set the tax amount at \$17,070 and collected \$17,069.96. The tax rate was .0119504.

The Whitehall Times
June 25, 1987

Town Topics - 1914
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In 1914 Whitehall was the only village in Washington County that did not have an up-to-date charter. A vote on the question was to be taken on 31 October, Saturday.

On Tuesday 27 October, a public meeting was held in Gray's Hall which 150 representative citizens attended. Much discussion had taken place, some skeptics holding that a new charter would give unlimited power to the trustees. Attorney Otis A. Davis read a paper in favor of reincorporation which showed that this power was not possible; that the office of village treasurer would be abolished to save money; that it would be easier to dispose of village boards without being held up in the courts.

The vote for reincorporation was favorable, 132, to 27. Less than one third of the eligible voters went to the poles. Only those on the assessment rolls could vote. This new charter stated that the village president and trustees were elected. The village clerk, treasurer and policemen were appointed and under the direction of the trustees, not the town board. The trustees could now adopt village ordinances and enforce them. The new trustees would be elected in March.

The Whitehall Times
July 2, 1987

Town Topics - 1914
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In earlier years Mother placed a nickel in a pail and sent one of the children to the neighbors who kept a cow or two. Here the neighbor fished the nickel from the pail, poured in the milk, and the child carried the pail home for consumption. But all this changed on 16 November by law. Local health officers had the duty of enforcing it.

No longer could there be just any container used nor any ladling milk out of a can from a truck. All milk and cream had to be sealed in containers at the dairy. The caps and tags had to be white and contain the name of the dealer and the grade of milk, A, raw; A, pasteurized; B, raw; B pasteurized; C, raw; C, pasteurized. (And from here came the story there's not a pasteurized cow in the lot).

The milk had to be delivered 36 hours from the time of: milking; the dealer had to have a permit from the local health officer and a milk commission was appointed by a county medical society. After 1 January, 1915 each farm was inspected yearly and permits to sell milk publicly displayed.

The Whitehall Times
April 17, 1975

Village Ordinances of 1915
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The affixing or placing of any words or device as a notice of or a reference to an article, business, exhibition or profession upon any telephone, telegraph or electric light pole or any other pole post or tree in the village is prohibited.

The owners or occupants of all lands fronting on sidewalks are required to remove all snow and ice from said walks within five hours from the time the snow shall fall or the ice accumulate.

The erection of signs over and across the sidewalks is prohibited.

All vehicles of every kind while traveling the streets are required to keep to the extreme right of the center of the street. On that portion of Main Street traversed by the railroad all vehicles north bound must travel on the east side of the track and those south bound on the west side.

All persons riding or using bicycles in the streets of the village are required to equip the same with a bell or alarm which they shall sound on approaching the cross walks or when passing a team or horses. Racing, scorching, or riding at an immoderate speed is prohibited.

All noisy, riotous or tumultuous conduct, the using of profane, vulgar or obscene language on any street or in any public place in the village is prohibited.

The Village Fathers were interested in keeping a safe, clean and attractive village in which to live.

The Whitehall Times
October 24, 1985

Bits and Pieces in Whitehall in 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

On 28 February 1922 the Republicans and Democrats joined in a Union Ticket for the Village election. Their ticket was President James J Sullivan; Trustees Edward McLaughlin, Claude Havens; collector Mrs. Mary Coombs Barber. Remaining were John O'Neil and Edward Roche. Outgoing trustees were Ralph Rush and William Inglee.

Street improvements were presented to the taxpayers: improvement of First Avenue, sewers on Saunders Street and Clinton Avenue. An added one was permission to pay Dr. Guinan, Village Health Officer. During the "flu" epidemic in 1918 patients were placed in the Armory, one big hospital. Many volunteers like Mrs. Fred Albee braved the danger of catching the dreaded disease. Her trick was the night shift. It seems odd that there was such a lag in paying the physician for duty in the Armory from 11 October

1918 to 6 November 1918. The law required that Health Officers be paid for extra services rendered. His bill was \$540.

The Whitehall Times
January 16, 1986

Bits and Pieces in Whitehall in 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

An item in August reported that two voting machines were to be rented for the November election. It would be economically better as the number of election officials could be lessened and quicker results obtained by starting counting immediately after the last vote. The voting polls for primaries were: District 7 Choppy's Barber Shop, 2 the fire station, 3 Neddo Building, up stairs on North Main Street, 4 village trustees' building.

The Whitehall Times
January 22, 1986

Bits and Pieces in Whitehall in 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The State Director of Motor Vehicles asked Chief of Police Bellegarde to help enforce motor vehicle laws. Especially those about headlights, breakinghose and dirty license plates. Too many people in Whitehall were driving horse drawn vehicles, at night without lights. It was dangerous also for others on the state highway walking without lanterns.

The Whitehall Times
March 6 1986

Bits and Pieces in Whitehall in 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The town purchased the five voting machines for \$1500. Their use would require only five voting areas instead of seven and would shorten the time of counting the votes, instead of an all night job. Within fifteen minutes the numbers would be known.

The Whitehall Times September 2, 1976

Town Clerks Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Putting together a special edition of a paper such as the July 1, 1976, issue of The Whitehall Times is an interesting project but a frustrating one, a fact I'm sure the staff of The Times will agree with me about. It's a case of not what to put in but where the line must be drawn to exclude items.

In the 1959 Whitehall Bicentennial Bulletin many lists were printed, the town clerks included. Odd as it may seem since that date only one clerk's name has been added, not like those of the supervisors and the school officials.

G. Guerdon Hardy was indeed one who loved the history of his town. In the early days of this historian's interest in Whitehall's story he was one who was sought out for information and pictures. Many of his picture collection through Mrs. Flora Hardy now enrich the files of the Historical Society of Whitehall. His term of office as town clerk is the longest continual one on record since 1778, when the records for the town began. The closest one is also 18 years, but it was served in two separate terms. Going backwards for a hundred years, the town clerks were:

11/1/1963, Marion Guerin, Marion's dress shop proprietor; 3/1/1956-11/1/1964. Claude F. Havens, Grocer; 2/1-3/1, 1956, Flora M. Hardy, assistant in bait making; 2/1/1938-2/1/1956, G. Guerdon Hardy, jeweler, fishing bait maker.

1924, 1/30/1938, Edward Hurtibus, D&H employee; 1922-23, J. Burdett Godbout, printer; 1916 1921, James H. Burdett, Jr., real estate and insurance agent; 1914 - 1915, John R. McLaughlin, grocer; 1912 - 1913, Henry Neddo, grocer, bank director, senator.

1904 - 1911, Edward F. McCarthy, postmaster, coal merchant; 1901 - 1903, H. F. Pecor, commissioner on canal; 1900. D. Frank Ryan, agent for D&H coal yard; 1898-1900, A. H. Taft, postmaster; 1894 - 1897, George D. Cull, clerk and inspector in canal collector's office, clerk in mercantile stores; 1893, C. J. Barker, railroader.

1889 - 1892, R. A. Chapin, dry goods proprietor; 1886 - 1888, P. W. Barry, merchant, grocer; 1885, E. W. Clark, farmer; 1884, O. A. Manville, druggist; 1883, E. P. Newcomb, secretary-treasurer of N.Y. & L.C.T. Co.

1882. O. A. Manville, druggist; 1881, F. A. Hotchkiss, hardware merchant; 1879 - 1880, O. A. Manville, druggist; 1878, E. J. Baldwin, farmer; 1874 - 1877, Lewis K. Pierce, justice of peace.

Graduations

The Whitehall Times

June 11, 1987

Some Former High School Graduations 1887-1987

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

As the annual high school graduation time comes round thoughts of earlier exercises become of interest. Some research of a few shows some changes in procedure as to place and procedures.

In 1887, one hundred years ago the ninth graduation was labeled the ninth without taking into consideration the first one of 1870 when three females received diplomas. In the early days of the Central School building, school assemblies were held in what was known as the study hall. As this was not large enough for public gatherings, outside auditoriums were used. In 1887 the Presbyterian Church was used.

The pulpit was removed and the large area was decorated with evergreens and flowers. In these times the necessary materials were gathered by the graduate themselves. The class motto was worked out and placed at the back of the auditorium. This class was composed of two girls and two boys, each of whom presented an essay, oration, or declamation. At the close of each, the participant was presented with several bouquets of flowers. Early programs were often of heavy materials and contained a class poem, oddly enough written by someone in the community.

In 1912, seventy five years ago, graduation exercises were held evidently in the Assembly Hall of the Central building. There is not a program on hand but an alumni association list gives the names of eight graduates.

In this year the alumni association was in its second year. This class would have attended that meeting.

In 1937, fifty years ago, graduation was held in the school gymnasium which doubled as an auditorium. This was after the renovation of 1914 and a later addition. There were forty eight graduates, 22 girls and 26 boys. Numbers in classes had been increased over the years, fluxuating in times of depression and economic conditions. Gone now was participation of every graduate in the interest of time. This class had only two speakers, the salutatorian and valedictorian. A third member played a piano solo. In 1952 recognition of fifty year graduates was begun by the Historical Society of Whitehall. There is a special bond among the members of a graduating class that brings them back to a reunion from all over the United States. This year it was from Minnesota, Florida and New Hampshire and many localities of New York State.

In 1967, twenty five years ago, graduation exercises were still held in the Central building, as it was the year before the move to the new school on Buckley Road. There were fifty-five graduates, 28 girls and 27 boys. A new section had been added, the awarding of many prizes for scholastic ability after the salutatory and valedictory addresses. The decorations now were large vases of flowers across the footlights.

In 1987, the present, there will be 67 graduates in the large auditorium on Buckley Road.

The Whitehall Independent
June 10, 1987

Graduations in Whitehall 1870-1879
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Graduation announcements recall former graduation ceremonies and seem a good way to research some school history. Fortunately the Research Library has a volume containing lists of scholars and records of classes of 1870 and 1879-1901. However the name of the compiler was not included.

The school institution that produced these graduations was the high school on Pierce's Knoll on West Street built in 1868 and first occupied in 1869. It became known as Central Building and was the Central of Whitehall's Union Free District #11.

The first graduation occurred in 1870. The date of the graduation exercise in the Presbyterian Church was not given but this report of the President of the Board of Education to that Board 9 July 1870 read "near the close of the last term of your school, Mrs. J. M. Dewey, the principal of the High School reported that Miss Minnie Jillson, Miss Annie Gaylord, and Miss Cora Griswold, three of the students in such department had satisfactorily completed the course of study prescribed therefore, and that in deportment, attendance, and character their record was unimpeachable; and that arrangements for their examinations and for Graduating exercises had been made."

All this happened and these three students, the first graduates of Whitehall High School received diplomas and heard an address by President Angel of the University of Vermont. These young ladies' surnames were from prominent families of Whitehall at that time.

From a report of Superintendent C. W. Bardeen in 1872 the schools of the Union Free School District was changed from a rather haphazard institution to an orderly one with improvement in content of studies and deportment of pupils.

According to the class roll of 1887 the graduation exercises were the ninth from the High School. That means the graduation of 1870 was not counted. The next graduation was in 1879 according to the record book.

The four graduates were averaged in marks on attendance, deportment, and scholarship and all were 91% or above. Sarah Gardiner was valedictorian with 98.5%; James A. Kilton, 93%; Frank C. Cooke, 93%; Guerdon H. Cooke, 93%.

The exercises were held in the Opera House in July and consisted of music, essays, recitations, and declamations. Mr. Kilton's topic was "Requisites for the Success and Safety of Our Government"; Miss Gardiner's, "Nothing Is Last." Diplomas were awarded by Honorable O. F. Davis, President of Board of Education. We have no printed program, if there was one.

The Whitehall Times
June 23, 1988

Graduations – Whitehall Chronicle 1870's
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Graduation - As the run of newspapers of the Chronicle is not complete, the record of the first graduation is not at hand. However in a book of school records there is a principal's report of the event that would be suitable at this graduation time. On 9 July 1870 Mrs. J. M. Dewey principal, reported to the board of education that the Misses Minnie Jillson, Anna Gaylord, and Cora Griswold had satisfactorily completed the course of study in that department, attendance, and character their record was unimpeachable. There was a graduation exercise at the Presbyterian Church at which President Angel of the University of Vermont gave an address. This was the first graduation of the new school on Pierce Knoll. This report to the board of education was signed by President O. F. Davis. It was some years after that, there was another graduation.

The Whitehall Times
June 2, 1983

Graduation Time - 1879
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



Whitehall High school will soon have another graduation. One hundred years ago this high school had no graduation but there were recitations, reading, and music. Principal Miller asked Dr. Root, president of the Board of Education, to address the audience. After his compliance, Dr. Root requested Rev. McMillan to speak. This gentleman said discipline in his school days was attended by the ruler and the strap. Exchanging quips, the two men finally concluded that the present school was run by the

"cat o'nine tails," meaning the nine members of the Board of Education, the number this board seems to have always had.

Back in 1866 the citizens of Whitehall were determined that the youth of the village should have an adequate education without having to go outside the village, the second academy having been closed. On 27 August the districts in the village were consolidated: Number 11, Bell School; Number 15, Wheeler Avenue; Number 17, West Street. The nine men who had been elected to the Board of Education decided to construct a new school building on Pierce Knoll at the corner of West and South Bay (School) streets. By the winter of 1869 the structure had been erected by Joseph Wilson, one of Whitehall's noted architects and carpenters, for \$1700. It had two classrooms on each of three floors for primary, intermediate, grammar, and high school departments.

The first graduating class was that of 1870 with three graduates, all girls. There was a space of nine years before the next commencement with three boys and one girl. After that the number fluctuated. The exercises, until the numbers became too large, were always the same. Each member of the class wrote and presented the essay on a topic appropriate to the times. Those with musical talent performed. A well known speaker orated, sometimes at great length, and almost always brought out the sentiment that the occasion was not a graduation but a commencement of life. The girls were dressed white, beribboned or ruffled, while the boys were arrayed in dark clothing.

Until a third of the twentieth century had passed, there was an eight grade graduation, for many of the pupils would not be going on with formal education.

The Whitehall Times

June 19, 1980

Graduation - 1880

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Whitehall High school graduation in 1880 took place on July 2. It was held in the fairly new Baptist church on Williams Street, that church's first building having burned in 1874.

Each of the eleven graduates delivered an essay described by the editor as well conceived, creditable evidence of deep thought, evidence of much talent, scholarly production. His conclusion was that the literary exercises were "the best ever attended in this place."

At the close of each oration the graduate was showered with bouquets, especially the valedictorian, Miss Annie Rowe, who received a "perfect deluge."

This was the day of addresses. The exercises included one by, Professor Butler at the opening; one by Rev. Mr. Haynes, who presented Regents certificates to the preparatory class of 1880-81; and a third by O. S. Davis, president of the board of education who presented the diplomas to members of the class.

The names of the graduates are familiar ones in Whitehall history: Hattie and May Brazill, Mattie C. Broughton, Annie Donovan, Edith M. Jillson, J. Greeley Jones,

A. Lulu Lotrace, John A. Morris, Sarah M. Ross, Annie' B. Rowe, J. Fred Warner. Their grades ranged from 95.59 to 78.79.

Annie Rowe was valedictorian and J. Greeley Jones, salutatorian. His essay was a Latin oration. The two Brazill girls and Mattie Broughton were musicians. May Brazill composed the class poem, the first verse of which was:

School work is finished,
Cross we the threshold here.
Hidden full close behind,
Waiteth life's labor.
We cannot e'er forget
Past hours to us dear;
Fondly, in coming years,
These hours we'll remember.
Now, for our parting words,
We gather here.

The Whitehall Times

June 18, 1981

Graduation - 1881

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

One hundred years ago, the graduating class has 11 members (today's has 89). The ceremony was held in the Presbyterian Church. The program consisted of a Latin oration, two other orations and six essays by the graduates. A specialty was a class song by a member of the class put to music by another member.

The names of the graduates are family names known to Whitehall today: Mina S. Belden, composer of the class song and valedictorian; Lottie T. Davis, Henry J. Earl, Ernest A. Greenough, Ruth D. Hopson, Carrie E. Matthews, George A. Quincey, author of the class song; Nellie C. Smith, Mamie A. Tafft, Walter A. Warner, " salutatorian, who gave the Latin oration.

Essay topics suggest imagination — Dreams, Mirrors, Ruins of Time, Earth's Battlefields, Cobwebs, Human Progress and American Democracy. The invitations and programs, executed by The Whitehall Times, were "something entirely different from anything ever gotten up in the village before." (The Research library has no copies of these).

A special presentation was made by Professor Butler to John G. Jones of the Regents Academic diploma. Up to this time only 135 of these diplomas had been issued in the state. Jones was the first to receive one in Whitehall. He had returned to school after his graduation to earn this diploma for entrance to college.

The Whitehall Times
May 11, 1982

Class of 1882
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Looking back 100 years brings us to the graduating class of Whitehall High school with its nine members, all of whom took part in the graduation exercises with essays and orations.

The first graduation of the school was in 1870, four years after the formation of the Union Free School District No. 11 and the year following the opening of the new school building on Pierce's Knoll on West Street.

The next graduation was held in 1879 and the exercises have been continuous ever since. The Whitehall Times printed the programs of the classes of 1881 and 1882. Each member of the class took part in an oration or an essay.

The Class of 1882 had eleven members. Some of the topics were Bells, A Plea for the Red Man, National Lyrics, and Silent Forces. The names of the graduates are familiar in the list of family names in earlier Whitehall: Rosemund S. Belden, William Blakeslee, Orville W. Blodgett, Mary E. Cody, Anna E. Dunning, E. Delwin Hendrick, A Malvina Renois, Anna Wright.

Class songs or poems were a part of the program. The one for 1882 shows the style of earlier poetry with its flowery words.

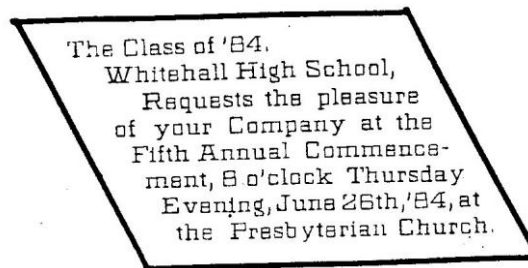
CLASS SONG Class of 1882

Welcome, Day of glad completeness,
Folded bud and blossomed sweetness,
Minstrel's song and poet's rhyme!
Studios toil awhile reposes
In a wilderness of roses,
Crowned with youth and summertime.
Flowery paths with joy pursuing,
We have dreamed of nobler doing,
Longed the larger life to try;
World from Prophet's page unfold it,
From some Mountain to behold it;
Promised land of "By and by."
In that future, hope enchanted,
May we greet with soul undaunted,
Smiling skies or clouds that frown;
Vision of transfiguration;
Cross of stern renunciation;
Victor's wreath or thorny crown.
Let no shade of care or sorrow,
Dim the promise of tomorrow,
Joyous faith our song shall swell.
Friends and comrades, bliss and cheers!

Angels of our Lord be near us!
Bid us onward and Farewell.

The Whitehall Independent
June 20, 1984

Graduations 1884
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



The graduation exercises of the Class of 1884 of the Union Free School took place Wednesday, 24 June, in the Presbyterian Church. The reporter stated that the large auditorium was packed with "human beings."

The interior of the church was decorated with plants and rare exotics. At the rear of the platform were the figures "1884". The front had columns of evergreens and flags. The class motto displayed was "Esse Non Videri", "To be, not to seem." There had been no graduation in 1883.

Six graduates were the star attractions: Fannie Brando, Clara M. Douglas, Nellie F. Jackson, Mary A. Prindle, John P. Shay, and John F. Wilson.

Each class member presented an oration or an essay as at that time the classes were small enough for each to give his original topic. The essays were "thoughtful and creditable and the delivery displayed more than ordinary oratorical culture."

The Parker Orchestra played at intervals during the program. The Reverend John Lowrey of the Presbyterian Church presented the diplomas and Superintendent Miller gave remarks appropriate to the occasion before the exercises closed. At that time H. B. Martin was President of the Board of Education.

Programme

Music

La Val D'Amoui Orchestra

Essay (w/Salutatory)

Florence Nightingale, Mary A. Prindle

Oration

Political Reform John P. Shay

Essay

Ralph Waldo Emerson, Fannie M. Brando

Instrumental Duet

"Polka Brillante" Ryder, Fannie Brando and Clara Douglas

Oration

National Customs, John F. Wilson

Essay

Unwritten History, Nellie F. Jackson

Music

Casing Waltzes, Orchestra

Essay (w/Valedictory)

Modern Manias, Clara M. Douglas

Presentation of Diplomas

Class Song by the Class Benediction

The Whitehall Independent

June 27, 1984

Valedictory 1884

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Over the years, times change. There are different subjects in school, different methods of teaching, different ways of living in both parents and children but human relations remain the same.

Recall the high school graduations you have attended, and the Valedictories you have heard expressing the gratitude of the seniors "going out into the world." Are they much different from this one given in 1884? Compare.

Clara M. Douglas: Valedictory

The time has come when we, who have so long been associated together, must say Good bye.

We are standing on the brink of a new life. A veil hangs before us hiding the future only waiting for the hand of Time to draw it aside that we may behold the joys and sorrows.

We have longed for this time to come, but now we look back with feelings of regret that we are to stand no longer in the same relations as teachers and pupils.

To our kind Principal and his assistants, it is hard to say Good bye. During our school life, we have ever had your patient help and kind wishes; and we trust the help you have given us will return to you a thousand fold. Our gratitude tonight is deep. We long for words which shall express to you all that we feel - but we can only say - we heartily thank you

"To you, the President, and other members of the Board of Education, and through you to the taxpayers of Whitehall, we are especially indebted for the opportunities of improvement which you have given us. With much gratitude for these and the care you have exercised over us, we, one and all, tender you our heartfelt thanks and bid you a sincere Fare-Well.

To our successors - the High School class - one year ago, we stood in your places and looked forward to the coming year with anxious eyes. We now as graduates offer you a cordial greeting and resign to you our places.

And now, my classmates, comes the hardest task of all - that of reminding you that we must separate the cords of affection that bound us together as classmates, and which have grown stronger day by day must now be broken. Tomorrow we separate, to go out into the great world and unto new fields of labor. Our school life has had its sunshine and its shadows, but our trials have been greatly lightened by our kind teachers. From this time we have only ourselves to rely upon. By doing our work as well as we can, we shall do ourselves and our friends credit. By obeying God's commands we shall occupy the noblest position that society can give - that of Christian men and women - doing their duty with willing hands, and, when the end comes, we shall pass to perfect life where there are no farewells.

The Whitehall Times
June 20, 1985

Graduation 1885
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

At this time of year a continuing custom occurs that differs not too much from the first graduation occurrence in 1873. In the month of June, the 25th in 1885, the graduation of Whitehall High School took place. The building on Pierce Knoll, named for a one time owner of the land, had only classrooms. A separate place for an audience had to be secured. This year it was the Presbyterian Church with its spacious auditorium. Graduates moved in to decorate it elegantly with plants and floral arrangements. Across the front platform was the class motto, in Latin naturally. *Talis labor qualis praemium*. Six graduates, four girls and two boys, made up the class. The family names are not as familiar as later ones - Allan and Lucinda A. Blodgett, Ella M. Hopson, Elmer L. Landon, Elma C. Rice, Carrie A. Travis. The Blodgett family held the position of honor - Allan as Salutatorian and Lucinda, Valedictorian.

With only a few students in the class, each one could participate in the ceremony. Each one presented his original effort with varying topics: Napoleon and Grant, Life of Washington, Influence of Amusements, Money's Power, Epitaphs, and Symbolic History. Each was spaced with musical selections, the home orchestra of George Chapin with piano, violin, cornet, and bass horn; and a duet. The diplomas were presented by the Rev. Zweifel, a member of the Board. Superintendent A. G. Miller titled Professor made "remarks."

The exercises were followed by a pretty custom of presenting bouquets to "the graduates. This was done by Morgan Griswold and Chester Wilkins, flower bearers from the Grammar Department.

The following afternoon the Grammar Department held its closing exercises, under the direction of teachers Louisa Denno and Sarah Gardner. There were recitations and declarations, mostly literary pieces, by the 24 pupils, the diplomas were given by

Professor A. G. Miller and the trustees made remarks - Mr. Corbett, Rev. Zweifel, Rev. McMullen, Dr. Root, and W. A. Wilkins.

The next day, Friday, the Bell School pupils under Minnie Jillson and Sarah Ross, presented their recitations and songs, forty two in number. This school at the corner of Lamb and Blount was a part of the Union School District 11. Graduation week was a high point in entertainment.

The Whitehall Times **January 12, 1978**

Graduations 1885 - 1907 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

What are odds and ends to some are treasures to others. This is the case of an envelope of materials brought by James Sullivan to the town historian. The items add to church and school history and give information about the silk mill and one of its superintendents.

A small printed booklet lists the names of 89 Sunday school children who gave money toward the purchase of a new St. Joseph Bell for Our Lady of Angels church, 16 November 1884. It has appropriate verses about bells.

Several items add to the school record. One is a small gilt edged envelope containing the Class of 1885 graduation program. Six members — Allan Blodgett, (salutatorian), Lucinda A- Blodgett (valedictorian), Ella M. Hopson, Elmer L. Landon, Elma C. Rice, Carrie A. Travis — were graduated with the class motto "Tails labor, qualis praemium." A small -handwritten card invited one to the sixth annual commencement at the First Presbyterian Church. Personal cards of the graduates were included. The topics of the six essays tended to be on literary subjects,

A still smaller folder lists the graduates of the Class of 1881. The writing is almost illegible but we learn Walter A. Warner was salutatorian and Mina A. Belden was valedictorian.

Mary A. Prindle was salutatorian of the Class of 1884 with the motto "Esse Non Videri." Her handwritten essay, tied with a ribbon, is among the items.

The program for 1904 was increased in size. It lists Hazel M. Prindle (Sullivan) as salutatorian and David W. Benjamin as valedictorian.

Among the other school items are graduation diplomas, regents certificates (much larger in size than now), report cards for regents marks and excuse blanks of both Mary and Hazel Prindle!

A stereopticon picture shows a parade between Division and Saunders streets. This is valuable, although there are some copies around, as someone took time to date it, 1876. It is shown in Day Before Yesterday as between 1898 and 1907. Now that date can be changed for the buildings if other facts coincide.

Another item is a copy of Champlain Silk Mills Square Deal, of which we have few copies. This one contains a picture of J. J. Sullivan and a biographical sketch from his birth to superintendence of both silk mills. It is the story of the rise of a country boy with

the motto "Do the job the best it can be done." It speaks of his association with the silk mill figures as George Noyes, Aubrey Meyer, Mr. Israel and Mr. Belanger. Mr. Sullivan was a village trustee and acted on the Recreational association as director.

These with some copies of outside newspapers of 1918 and 1919 make a valuable contribution to our files.

The Whitehall Independent **June 18, 1986**

Graduation 1886 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

On 25 June 1886, almost one hundred years to the day of this year's graduation, five girls and one boy were graduated from Union Free School District Number 11 in Whitehall. There was no auditorium and for many years school affairs were held around in the churches. This year it was in the Baptist Church on Williams Street.

Rain had been exceptionally heavy with a promise of more on this night, but the crowd was undeterred and long before the exercises began at 8:30, the church was filled with an interested audience.

In earlier years, the graduates themselves gathered the materials for the trimming of the platform and did the actual work. This year over the Baptistry was an evergreen arch with the class motto, "Facto non Verba", always in Latin. At the north side was an anchor made of flowers and opposite was a bank of plants and flowers.

The girls were dressed in white, for this was still the time of beautiful dresses, quite often made by the mothers who vied in producing the most stylish mode and loveliest materials. It wasn't until about fifty years later that the cap and gown arrived at high schools to level the mode of dress.

Each member of the class presented a well written essay, showing the great care the teachers took in their training. Although the reporter of the event bemoaned the low voices and the lack of theatrical gestures, each oration was enthusiastically received. Professor Miller was in charge of the exercises and the President of the Board of Education, O. F. Davis Esq., (that title usually accompanied the gentleman's name) presented the diplomas with appropriate remarks.

The salutatory was given by Mary Bailey with the topic "A Day in the Woods." This was followed by Kate Briggs with "Superstitutions" and Kathie Finnican with "Dux Famina Facti." After a xylophone solo, Ella DeForrest followed with a prophesy "Not Much of Anything", and Loretta Manville with a prophesy "Ruins." The last essay, the valedictory, "Mazzini" was given by Leonard B. McFarran, the lone boy.

Ella DeForrest wrote the class poem which was a frequent addition in early graduations. This is the second verse.

In our voyage across life's ocean,
Let us strive to do our best,
And what e'er comes to us in life
May we gain the promised rest.

Let us trust to the good God's guiding
As we drift on life's stormy sea,
And may His heavenly home above
Our home and refuge be.

The Whitehall Independent
June 3, 1987

Graduation 1887
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The nearing graduation exercises of high school bring memories of former years. Early newspapers made it an occasion to do some idealizing and praising of the local educational system. This was evident in 1887 in Whitehall. The editor said, "The participant is brought to one of the most important moments of life. It closes a world that must open a door to manhood or womanhood that throws the graduate upon the sea of life with an education that must do duty for both canoe and paddle. For the past ten years the school at this place has advanced a high grade, and today ranks among the best in the state. Graduates from Whitehall Union Free School are prepared for any position in commercial or professional work. The very best instructors have been obtained and our community has received the benefits that are derived from a first class educational course of study."

The ninth annual graduation of the Union Free School was held Friday June 24, 1887 in the Presbyterian Church. The interior was a profusion of plants and flowers whose fragrance was wafted across the large auditorium. The pulpit desk was removed and replaced with a platform decorated with more taste. On the walls in back was an arch of evergreen and roses while toward the front was another arch woven with evergreen and flowers from the center of which was a large floral ball. Across the back was the class motto "Mulle Secundum". On the south side of the platform was a floral anchor and on the north, a star.

The large church was filled to standing room only at 8 pm. Superintendent Miller introduced each piece of the program. There were four graduates, two ladies and two gentlemen: Edith A. Culver, Mary Pittinger, Harte Cook, and Emerson D. Wood.

The salutatory essay was Mary Pittinger, an acute and excellent idea after which several boys advanced with bouquets and laid them at her feet.

Harte Cook's oration was, "Science land Civilization", which showed evidence of study and care. He received a profusion of floral remembrances.

Edith Culver's essay was on "Simon says Thumbs Up" which was greatly enjoyed. She received a show of bouquets.

Emerson D. Wood's valedictory "Young Men of America" was full of advice. He was a shy lad and his oratory surprised the audience.

Councilor Lillie gave an address and presented the diplomas. Superintendent Miller took leave of the school and of the citizens as he was leaving the Whitehall school.

Benediction was given at nine thirty.

Health

The Whitehall Times
July 31, 1980

Whitehall Republican – May 17, 1828
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Fever and ague were still prevalent in Whitehall. The prescription for it was "take a teaspoonful of brimstone in a glass of port wine and go to bed immediately. Repeat the dosage at each recurrent fit which should not exceed two or three at the utmost."

The Whitehall Times
June 9, 1988

Whitehall Chronicle – After 1860
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In the 1870's there was a small pox epidemic. Although there were few cases, rumors grew and people were going outside the village to trade. The Chronicle investigated and found two girls on High Street and one on Skene Street. They were all doing well. The authorities purified High Street and buildings with lime and comment had it, that the area was almost unrecognized by the inhabitants.

It seems the members of the family were going out into the streets and public places and visitors were calling without the consent of the health officer, G.W. Carver. The girls had taken the disease from a girl at the Elbow. The health department stressed quarantine of the families, vaccination, and removing all items from premises that would help to spread the disease.

The Whitehall Times
August 2, 1973

July 1873
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Cholera is advancing. Clean up your premises; deodorize your cellars, sinks and privy vaults. Remove offal from your backyards. Dr. E. W. Gordon, health officer, is laboring indefatigably to put the village into a thorough sanitary condition.

The Whitehall Times
August 30, 1973

August 6, 1873
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

6 August It's a wrong practice for Grocers to throw old vegetables in the street to breed cholera. We noticed Saturday last several piles of peapods decaying in the hot sun on Canal Street.

The Whitehall Times
March 7, 1974

February, 1874
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

There was smallpox in the village but the Village Fathers took immediate steps to establish a pest house to prevent its spread and local citizens provided food and supplies for the stricken family.

Historical Societies

The Whitehall Times
September 23, 1971

Historical Society of Whitehall
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Note: This article was updated in March of 2006 to help in recognizing locations. The updates will be *italics*.

Perhaps some Whitehallers would like to follow the route visitors of the Upper Hudson Historical Federation followed last Saturday as guests of the Historical Society of Whitehall.

The descriptions are not complete, of course, and there are many more places to see. But these stress the fact that Whitehall has a heritage of which to be proud.

1. Skenesborough Museum was built in 1917 of reinforced concrete as a canal terminal where cargoes were registered. It was given to the Town of Whitehall in 1960 as long as it was used as a museum. *The Visitor Center with heated wing was built in 1976 as a memorial to John O'Brien a Whitehall native.*

2. On the left Skenesborough Fire Company firehouse erected in 1966.
3. On the right Whitehall Volunteer Fire Company Firehouse moved from Broadway in 8 1/3 hours to make way for the new railroad bed.
4. On the right Riverside Park made possible by public spirited citizens headed by the Civic League on the site of the old canal bed. Flower urn in center was a horse watering trough. Check-reined horses drank from the top basin. It stood before 1912 down by Lock 12; was moved across the canal before the Scott Building on North Williams St. before being placed in the park. *The Scott Building sat on land across from the gazebo on N. Williams St.*
5. On the left the American Legion home in 1860 was the home of the Masons, as seen in the plaque at the top. Buildings here to Lock 12 are, according to Hans Klunder, Inc., consultant to the Whitehall Planning boards, an architectural gem of store fronts for the period 1860-1900 that should be preserved. Look at them also from Williams street. *In 1974 those buildings were placed on the National Register of Historic Places*
6. The town building was originally *the First National bank. Built in 1906, the interior architecture as been retained except for its skylight*
7. The present *Citizen's Bank* on the corner of *Main and Saunders Streets* was the Merchants National bank, chartered in 1873.
8. Montgomery Ward was a former drug store in the Renois Block in the later 1800's and early 1900's. *In 2005 a coffee shop was created at the corner and a gift shop adjacent to it.*
9. *Across Main Street* is the parking lot built on the old canal bed. From Williams Street you will see the stone wall that supported the first two canals.
10. Two stores with the yellow tops was the Temple of Economy of John O'Neil of the whiskey jug fame. *This property burned in the 1990's*
11. Fragnoli's was a three story hardware store of Wood and Hotchkiss, erected in 1878, at the corner of Division and Main Streets. *After a fire Northern Insurance erected their Whitehall office on the lot.*
12. The Telephone building had a music hall upstairs where entertainment from New York City was held and local amusements. This extended across the top of the Oneida market. *In 2003 these two buildings were purchased to become an artist's studio and antique shop.*
13. Over Newberry's store are Griswold's Iron Front building, so-called because it had an iron grill across the top; a dance hall was on the top floor. *This building was demolished in 1989 as it was condemned after a heavy snowstorm caused part of the façade to collapse.*
14. Anderson hall which held the village armory where the Burleigh Corps, later the Ninth Separate Company, drilled. *It still stands and is owned by Mark Gordon.*
15. Lock 12 completed in 1912 after a whole block of buildings was removed to make way for the machinery. The canal was moved over into the bed of Wood creek.

The Whitehall Times
September 30, 1971

Historical Society of Whitehall (cont.)
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

16. Out North Main Street, a first street of Whitehall, with a solid strip of ground on the right called "The Bar" along the harbor where the first United States fleet was constructed in 1776. A plaque is near here. The area on the left was, not too long ago, covered with water through which the railroad ran to the Lake Station where the lake boats brought passengers. *This station was near the present Lake Champlain Coal Co.*

17. On the right Lake Champlain Shipbuilding, Inc. Whitehall was active in building boats: lake, sailing, canal, row, and guide. *It has been replaced by a storage building owned by the Whitehall Marina.*

18. "The Line" coal chute, on the left. Note the signature at the top on the north side. This belonged to the Lake Champlain Transportation Company. *Lake Champlain Coal still stores coal there.* On the way back to Lock 12 look up at Skene Mountain.

19. Skene Manor was built from limestone cut on Skene Mountain as the home of Washington County's famous Judge Joseph Potter, father of Whitehall's Admiral William P. Potter. Built in 1874 it served later as the home of a silk mill superintendent. Mr. Sachs, a jeweler, in his tenure, changed the town clock from the Presbyterian Church to its tower and kept it running. Later *the building* became a restaurant. The original wall paper frieze has been kept in the entrance hall. A beautiful view rewards one from its yard. (It was not Philip Skene's home.) *In 1995 the property was purchased by a group that formed a non profit organization to restore it to its former grandeur. In 2005 a new roof was installed.*

20. Civil War cannon brought to Whitehall by its citizens to be used as a memorial for its service men; dedicated in 1899. *This may be seen at the north end of Cliff Street over looking Lock 12.*

21. Crossing the bridge you will see the ruins of the old silk mill, erected in 1883. Champlain Silk Mill was a main industry for many years. This mill stood idle when the industry was removed to the New Silk Mill farther south. *The power house, with larger generators installed, is still in use producing electricity.*

22. Look across the canal to see the store fronts and retaining wall. *The original East wall (stone) of the Champlain Canal form 1819 to 1912*

23. On the left formerly Scott's large brick building, earlier Doren's furniture store.

24. On the left a building with I.O.O.F. letters (*International Order of Odd Fellows a Fraternal organization*). This was the Whitehall Chronicle building, a newspaper started in 1840 which ran for a long time concurrently with The Whitehall Times.

25. On the right Liberty Eatery, an antique shop and restaurant. From Main Street you can see its "butterfly roof," an uncommon roof type which took care of rain water *directing it into the canal.*

26. The Whitehall Times building, circa 1840, was among other things at various times a coffin factory, a stable, a Chinese laundry. The Whitehall Times was established in 1815 with its predecessor, American Sentinel.

27. On the left the B.P.O.E. building which stands on the site of Whitehall's famous Opera House, 1875. Theatre troops on their way from New York to Montreal used to stop in Whitehall for a week.

28. On the right the village, building 1908 which was formerly constructed as a fire house which housed the fire engines and hose carts of the early fire department. Note the wide windows areas that were doors. *The Village offices moved there after a fire in 1860 destroyed records.*

29. The Griswold Library was a home willed to the village as a library; erected in 1856. *The library is on the two lower floors. The third level houses the Historical Society's research rooms.*

30. On the right a red brick house dated about 1810; home of Mr. and Mrs. Farnham who have kept the wide floor boards. *Two separate families owned this structure with a common wall in the center.*

31. A roadway to the right leads to a building used as a leather tannery in the later 1800's. *This building later became a blacksmith shop owned by Arthur Pippo, father of Mary Barber and Linda Freeman.*

32. "Ecole" apartments remodeled from the Williams Street School erected in 1899. *Eight apartments were fashioned from this former elementary school.*

33. On the left the Baptist Church erected 1874-1876 but remodeled when fire claimed much of it.

34. Up the next street to the left can be seen Notre Dame des Victoires, Church of the French speaking population erected in 1896. It and the brick houses on Williams street were constructed of brick made in the local brick yards in the middle of the 19th century.

35. On the left is the armory built in 1900, home of the Ninth Separate Company. Note the rare silver birch trees in the yard. The two cannons on the lawn were raised from the area of Lock 12. They were from the fleet of the first United States Navy sunk in the harbor during the battle of Skenesborough in 1777.

36. Cross Wood Creek, a winding stream across whose meanders the Champlain Canal was built, forming the Island on which is

37. the New Silk Mill during World War 1. *From the 1960's to the 1990's it was E. B. Metals, a vending machine manufacturer. The building was razed in 2003.*

38. The railroad station of familiar railroad structure was built in 1892. At one time over 76 trains a day went through Whitehall, north, south and east. *Local fireman burned the building as part of a drill at the request of the D & H Railroad.*

39. New Arlington Hotel the 1860 structure but remodeled to accommodate updated sleeping rooms and dining room.

40. Our Lady of Angels Church built in 1868 for the Irish section of the population. *Closed in the late 1990's by the Albany Diocese. Later purchased by the Whitehall Knights of Columbus*

41. On the right Knights of Columbus which was the former Railroad Y.M.C.A., 1895. A hospital was once located here. *Purchased by the Putorti Family and renovated into apartments and laundromat.*

42. Along the West side of the street are homes built on terraces that once were enclosed with iron fences, some going back to 1827.

43. United States Post Office in which is a mural painted by W.P.A. artist. Whitehall had the first post office north of Albany by grant from Benjamin Franklin to Philip Skene.

44. To the left *near the corner of Saunders Street* is the Presbyterian Church erected in 1819 but remodeled when the new rail bed was made *in 1933. The church front was rebuilt and the house nest door moved back seven-five feet.*

45. Across the street is the *former* Masonic temple. This area north of Saunders Street was a hill on which was located a fort and barracks from the French and Indian War until long after the War of 1812,

The Whitehall Times **May 27, 1971**

Historical Society of Whitehall 20th Anniversary **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

The Historical Society of Whitehall is observing its 20th anniversary since its reactivation 2 May 1951. Its charter is that granted to the original society founded in 1910. The original minutes of that society are available.

It is interesting to note that the first interest in forming the society was evidenced by the circulation of a paper 15 September 1909 which was signed by fifteen outstanding men of the community, a brief biographies shows their status in the village.

Clarence E. Holden was associated with the Transportation Company, at one time owning two tugs. He was once the town historian.

Hermon E. Sullivan was with the Sullivan Store at the present Pippo's location. He was an excellent singer and an ardent history buff.

Ernest T. Horton was a doctor of medicine, residing on Williams Street south of the Baptist Church. He was a Mason and very instrumental in the erection of the Masonic Temple.

James H. Matthew was a druggist having a store first north of Newberry's and later in the building of Marion's Dress Shop.

William D. Harrigan had a dry goods store in the building of Roseli's Store. His home was the present Pillars,

Warren F. Bascom was a bookkeeper and an insurance agent. He lived in the Bascom house at Gilmore Street and Broadway.

Arthur E. Falkenbury practiced medicine. He constructed the present home of Dr. Arthur Yellen.

Charles W. Schwartz was a medical doctor with an office next to the old Y.M.C.A, located to the north of the present Knights of Columbus home.

The Whitehall Times
June 3, 1971

Historical Society of Whitehall First Meetings
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Masonic temple was the scene of the first meetings of the Historical Society of Whitehall. The first paper read was "The Indian Raid of 1780." By October, 1910, the purposes and aims of the society were drawn up. In general they were to collect and file genealogical records, provide markers for sites in the village, improve the many cemeteries, and erect a fireproof building. The first aim was fulfilled in part. The others did not come to fruition. It is interesting to note that an annual Old Home Week was suggested at that time. It has taken 60 years to bring that about, now under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce.

The signatures of 59 members are affixed to the constitution, based on that of the New York State Historical Society.

A seal was made. Around the outside of a circle were the words: The Historical Society of Whitehall, N.Y. Inside the lettering, 1759, Skenesborough were placed above a representation of Skene's key stone which has on it P S K, 1770. Below this was printed Whitehall, 1786.

1759 represents the year of Whitehall's founding; 1786 the year of the changing of the name Skenesborough to Whitehall; P K S for Philip and Katharine Skene and the 1770 the year of the building of Skene's house.

Before the activated society found the description of the first seal, its members designed a new one. This seal is round with Skene Mountain in the background. The gondola PHILADELPHIA is under sail around the old harbor entrance. A shipyard is represented to the right of the design where Wood Creek empties into the harbor and underneath a star. A fleur de lis Us and a Union Jack, are representing the countries that once claimed Skenesborough land.

The Whitehall Times
June 13, 1971

Historical Society of Whitehall - 1911
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The early Historical society had an active 1911 year. The minutes provide names of members in attendance and the programs given. After that until 1918, when meetings ceased, only annual meetings were held. No work as a society was done, though the

minutes say that much individual research was carried on. This was the time during which Clarence Holden, S. L. Loomis and Hermon Sullivan were collectors of information. May Belle Curtis, also a member, published "Kathl of Skenesborough" In 1914.

Programs of the early Historical society in 1911 consisted of papers prepared and read by its members. Some of these are preserved in the Whitehall Books in Albany. Perhaps others are still in existence in the families of these people.

Mrs. John J. Doren, Whitehall 50 Years Ago.

John F. Clark, Early Music in Whitehall.

Mrs. M. J. Brown, The Old Academy.

Rev. Chas. E. Mac Ginness, First Presbyterian Church.

Mrs. Lewis G. Peart, The Old Adams Homestead.

Rev. Herbert C. Martin, Episcopal Church in Whitehall.

Mrs. Otis A. Dennis, The Armory Neighborhood.

W. L. Bascom, Local Navigation in War Time.

Frankie E. Griswold, Life of Philip Skene.

Isidore Israel, Earliest History of Skenesboro.

Clarence E. Holden, Skenesboro-Whitehall, 1761-1811.

Rosemond B. Chapman, Whitehall, 1811-1861.

The Whitehall Times

August 16, 1973

Do You Quilt?

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Can you quilt? If not, do you want to learn? Now is the occasion to apply the skill or to learn it in Skenesborough Museum on the beautiful quilt in progress there.

A project was begun by the Historical Society of Whitehall this spring when over 30 ladies each made a block of a pattern called Friendship Album. Miss Isabelle Sleight prepared the quilt for the finishing progress and there have been many work afternoons in the old "quilting bee" style. Two rows of the seven to be worked have been done. The finishing date hopefully is in October.

If you have an hour or two, just call Miss Sleight, who is an excellent teacher, or just drop into the Museum. It really is not hard (take it from a non-sewer) and it's fun and it's companionable.

Interesting stories are a part of a day in the Museum. Recently a young lad from Ticonderoga was reading all the material in the Skene cabinet. He was delighted to find the name of a great grandfather in the list of Skene's tenants. He had this story to tell:

Jim Burroughs considered himself a really tough character. He bragged on all occasions and often that he could lick the other guy. Whitehallers finally became tired of hearing the boasts and sent their toughest contestant down to Ticonderoga no holds barred, the struggle was on. Finally the contestants rested each minus an ear that had been chewed off in the fracas.

Has anyone heard this tale and can he tell us the name of this worthy Whitehall opponent?

James Sullivan has donated some pictures from his late father's collection to the Museum. Four of them are of the silk mill and personnel. Others are of street scenes of Williams Street, stores on the site of the present Scott's Furniture Store, the armory shortly after its erection, Our Lady of Angels Church when dwelling houses were on each side of it, the Whitehall Central School building before any additions were made and its floor plan by architects Fuller and Robinson.

Several of these will be used in the forthcoming Pictorial History of Whitehall. Other older pictures will be most welcome for this purpose. The pictures are copied and returned.

A new exhibit in the Museum this year is a gift of Col. John Baker. It consists of models of two helicopters. They are observation, four bladed and two bladed and used in flight over Vietnam in 1972. In the case is also a crossbow type with arrows and quiver from Song Be in South Vietnam. These were presented to Colonel Baker by one of the battalions in the Song Be area.

The Whitehall Times **May 15, 1980**

Historical Society First 50 Years **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

The Historical Society of Whitehall honored the Whitehall High school Class of 1930 on May 10 at its annual Founders Day luncheon. This class had one of the highest percentages of attendance since the observance began.

The original Historical Society of Whitehall was suggested in 1909 when a paper was circulated to test the interest in such a group. During 1910 the society was formed and began regular meetings with programs developed by its members. The constitution and by-laws were submitted to the New York State Department of Education and a charter was granted in 1911.

From the society evolved the research work of Clarence Holden, Hermon Sullivan and Mr. Loomis. With kindred spirits they visited area cemeteries and interviewed older people in the community. From this came Clarence Holden's written records of Whitehall, now in the manuscript room of the New York State Library.

On May 2, 1951, Town Historian Elizabeth Carpenter led in the reactivation of the historical society, using the same state charter. Its first meeting was held in August. Since then five regular meetings have been held each year, with the later addition of the Founders Day luncheon.

The first 50-year graduate observance was held in 1955 at a regular June meeting when the graduates of 50 years or over were honored. These were Mrs. George Noyes, Mrs. Herbert Bartholomew, Mrs. I. E. Hughes, Miss Alena Manville and Mrs. Milo Johnson.

John Sheehy, president of the Class of 1955, read the names while Phyllis Saladin pinned corsages. Bernard Murphy handed out "diplomas." Leonard Rich and William Jones sang the "Alma Mater." Lawrence Inglee, vice president of the Historical society, drew reminiscences from the graduates with "Do You Remember?"

Some classes of alumni hold annual meetings, but these get-togethers are just as happy as those held on special occasions. There is joy on hearing the excited greetings and remembrances.

The Whitehall Independent **November 4, 1987**

The National Newspaper Index Product 1987 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

The Volunteers of the Reference Library of the Historical Society of Whitehall have completed a project of inventorying Whitehall's newspapers in its files.

This project is in conjunction with a nationwide inventory of newspapers that will list issues of local papers either in collection or single issues from colonial times to the present. The survey is funded by individual grants and donations of historically minded people. The State of Michigan has finished its survey. New York State is now in the process with Mrs. Zlata Phillips from the Albany office in charge of Washington County. She has made two visits to Whitehall.

The Reference Library has in its collection either in single issues or short runs and bound volumes examples of local papers since its first page was published in 1823. The names of many may doubtless be unfamiliar to many Whitehallers: The Emporium, the Observer, Whitehall Democrat, The Republican, The Washington County News, The Town Topics, The American Star, The American Sentinel, The Whitehall Chronicle, The Whitehall Times, the Whitehall INDEPENDENT.

Information listed in the survey includes, date, volume and number, day and editor or publisher. Many of the publishers are fragile but they are valuable. Readers of the Town Historians column in this paper may recall repeated requests for such papers, even if only a single issue. They are a valuable source of material for Whitehall history in progress. The Volunteers of the Research Library, during past years have indexed many scrap books, filed vital statistics cards, and pictures, recorded and filed papers and pamphlet material. The Library contains account books on area history. Bible records of families.

The many genealogical requests from states and Canada are answered from these sources. The pictures are filed under general topics. There is a name for specific subject and person filing. George King has aided in recognizing places and people.

The Volunteers who took part in this project research are Clelia Barberis, Evelyn Benjamin, Doris Gould, Laura Greenwood, Isabelle Sleight, June Tracy, Evelyn Wilson. June Tracy is the genealogist. These volunteers give two hours every Tuesday in the Historical Society rooms of the Isaac C. Griswold Library.

The Whitehall Times
November 5, 1987

The National Newspaper Index Product 1987
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The volunteers of the Reference Library of the Historical Society of Whitehall have completed a project of inventorying Whitehall's newspapers in its files.

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Listed in the survey are the dates, volume and number, day, and editors or publishers. Many of the papers are fragile but they are valuable. Readers of the Town Historians column in this paper may recall repeated requests for such papers, even if only a single issue. They are a valuable source of material for a Whitehall history in progress.

The volunteers of the Research Library during past years have indexed many scrapbooks, filed vital statistic cards and pictures, recorded and filed papers and pamphlets. The library contains account books of early businesses and organizations. Census records, diaries, books on area history. Bible records of families.

The many genealogical requests from states and Canada are answered from these sources. The pictures are filed under general topics. There is now a need for specific subject and person filing. George King has aided in recognizing places and people.

The volunteers who take part in the library work are Clelia Barberis, Evelyn Benjamin, Doris Gould, Laura Greenwood, Isabelle Sleight, June Tracy and Evelyn Wilson. June Tracy is our genealogist. These volunteers give two hours every Tuesday at the Historical Society rooms in the Isaac C. Griswold Library.

The Whitehall Times
September 6, 1973

Whitehall Newspaper Records
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Through the cooperation of the Adirondack Museum in Blue Mountain Lake, the newspapers of Whitehall for 1900 are being micro filmed. These consist of runs and single issues of papers owned by the Historical Society of Whitehall, Whitehall Times, and the Town Historian.

This microfilming is of great value in preservation as the papers, except for very early copies, are rapidly disintegrating. Although the years may not be complete with all issues, each paper is valuable for the Town's history, as has been stated so often in this column. Copies of the micro films will be available for purchase to the Town Historian and the Historical Society.

Have you noticed the new sign of the Whitehall Times Building? In the form of an attractive maroon shield it states Whitehall Times, Established 1815.

The list of Whitehall newspaper titles give rise to questions as to why and when and who. Perhaps the answers can be ferreted out in future research. American Sentinel

North Star

Whitehall Democrat

Washington County Post

Washington County Chronicle

The Whitehaller

Whitehall Evening Times

Town Topics

Whitehall Emporium

Washington County News

Whitehall Republican

Whitehall Telegraph

Whitehall Chronicle

Whitehall Times

The Lion

There are the names of the school papers, The Acropolis and The Skeenic News and one was published for the silk mill. Though specialized, these are also valuable for historical purposes

The Whitehall Times February 18, 1971

Association of Towns Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Town Historian was able to attend the annual meeting of the Association of Towns held in New York City Feb. 8-10.

This meeting is, in reality, a three-day workshop for all elected and appointed town officials of the 900 towns in New York State to meet to discuss matters relative to their offices and to be instructed in new developments and procedures peculiar to their work.

The only light touch in the program was the annual Tuesday luncheon and that was devoted to Governor Nelson Rockefeller's explanation of his state tax problems. Bob Considine, noted newspaper columnist, was also a speaker.

At their meeting, the Town Historians organized a State Town Historian's association. Its main purposes are to provide for an exchange of ideas, information, and material among local, county and regional historians; to aid the Office of State Historian, to promote good relations among town officials and the community with the Town Historians; to develop a Code of Ethics, for Town Historians; to provide a Newsletter for communication among its members; and to plan for the coming Bicentennial program.

One meeting was devoted to a visit to the New York Historical Society building on Central Park West. Besides viewing the exhibits of rare materials, the Historians were invited to use the card catalogs for books, maps, and manuscripts. I had used the manuscript material in writing PHILIP SKENE OF SKENESBORO'JGH. This visit I discovered the newspaper collection contains ten issues of the American Sentinel during the years 1856 and 1857. This was an early Whitehall newspaper. My file contains only parts of two Issues.

This was a very worthwhile, meeting, according to those attending it in their reports to each other.

The Whitehall Times February 17, 1972

Association of Towns Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Association of Towns of the State of New York was held in New York City 7-9 February. The theme this year, "The Quality of Life" was emphasized in the welcome from John Lindsay, the luncheon speaker Arthur Godfrey, and participants Representative Howard W. Robison, NYS Comptroller Arthur Levitt, and many others in their thoughts on ecology, financial stability, and good government.

Whitehall's participants were Supervisor Horace Scott, Councilman Charles Tinsley, Justice Albert St. Clair, Assessor Gino Scott, Playground Director Gordon Foote and Historian Doris Morton. Meetings set up for each division of town government provided opportunities to learn of new developments, new laws and new procedures. Not the least valuable was the time given between sessions to hold those conversational sessions that help so much in sharing experiences and learning ways others deal with the same problems. It is as one lad said as he dashed from one meeting to another, "I've been to school."

Meetings the entity called Organization of Municipalities was completed. It has taken a period of three years to accomplish this. In 1970 a feasibility study was made; in 1971 occurred the organization; and in 1972 the constitution and by-laws were accepted. The state has been divided into sections which are to be organized themselves to give a closer association between town and city historians. County historians, who will be invited to the meetings, have an organization of their own.

The five-county area of Essex, Hamilton, Saratoga, Warren and Washington, known as District 11, has already been formed into the Upper Hudson Historical Federation and so is ahead of the other districts and in having had its first workshop in Whitehall and its first annual business meeting in Minerva. Whitehall is represented in this organization with a first vice president, Carol Greenough; five members of the Historical Society of Whitehall -- President Carol Senecal, Eleanor FltzGerald, Joyce Putterman, Emily Silliman and Marion Wills; and a director. Doris Morton.

The desirability of close relationship between town historians is aptly illustrated by the inter-history of the towns of Dresden, Hampton and Whitehall. The people and events of their early stories cover the history of each other.

The problems of a town historian are common to all other historians: The need of proper facilities to store safely their materials other than in a home where the books and materials can later be burned scattered, »or even sold by non-interested people; the preserving of valuable records which many unknowing people destroy. A town historian is the custodian of a town's history.

Some interesting quotations from the leaders of the annual meeting include: President Herbert Kline, "Preserve the quality of life in the towns;" NYS Assembly Speaker Perry Duryea, "Get government back to the people. The towns are doing this;" Mayor John Lindsay, "By holding hands together we have been able to get some action. The quality of life has to do with humanism;" NYS Senate « Finance Committee member Warren Anderson, "Put the money where the problems are;" and Historian Margaret Mac-nab, "The person who casts his bread upon the waters often has it returned to him buttered."

The Whitehall Times **March 1, 1979**

Historians Workshop **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

So very often in attending a meeting, I hear a tale relating to Whitehall. This time I heard the authentic story of the "Pig Pen Papers" in the John Hancock House in Ticonderoga.

Some "years ago a man in Orwell, Vt., found four years of the Whitehall Democrat in a pig pen at Chipman's Point. How they arrived in that place is anyone's guess. Anyway, he liked to read the papers and so kept them.

Eleanor Hall, Town Historian of Moriah who visited Orwell frequently, heard of the papers. She assured Mr. LaFay that the papers were of value and should be preserved. As a result, he deposited them in the John Hancock House, a part of the New York Historical Association.

This occurred much before the Historical Society of Whitehall was reactivated. It would be such a great addition to Whitehall's historical collection if these and the Holden Papers in the New York State Library manuscript could be microfilmed. The latter, printed with blue ink, are rapidly deteriorating.

The meeting I attended was the annual one of the Association of Towns. This is a series of workshops for information and updating. The Historians' section always has the business meeting of the Municipal-Historians association.

The topics are varied. We heard State Department workers speak on the historian's role in local government, how to prepare a budget (this one was from a city historian who had several thousand dollars to spend), research in the State Archives and publications in New York State. Whitehall's "Day Before Yesterday" is included in the 1977 list that just came out.

Another value of these meetings is the helpful material to be collected. One set of papers was "Recording Cemetery Data;" another, a history of the Town of North Hempstead.

Richard Allen of the Bicentennial Commission reported. The Sullivan-Clinton campaign took place in 1779. The commission has held out to commemorate the Nation's Bicentennial with this part of New York's history. State funds, scanty, were finally allocated the first of February. And so the commemoration of the war that ended 25 November 1783 on Evacuation Day in New York City will "die gracefully in 1979." The commission is trying to have a postage stamp issued for the Sullivan-Clinton campaign.

The Whitehall Times 1981

Historians Workshop Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The fall workshop of the Association of the Municipal Historians of New York state was held in Watertown and Sacket's Harbor Sept. 25-26.

The theme "New York State in the War of 1812" was developed by Robert E. Mulligan, Jr., of the State Museum. He emphasized that this short war was brought about by United States expansion in world affairs, especially in Canada, rather than British impressing American seamen.

He went on to explain that New York State did not want war but supplied the greatest number of men. Three of the important paths of battle were in the state, in the Niagara frontier (Queenstown Heights, the Central St. Lawrence River Valley, and Lake Champlain). Americans replied to the British Embargo Act by smuggling goods to Canada over Lake Champlain.

Sacket's Harbor, which like Whitehall is one of the pilot projects, in the Parks and Recreation Urban Cultural System, has old homes where servicemen were housed, fifty men to an attic; the Old Sow. the cannon that returned a British cannon was on display. The beautiful harbor was the site of the naval shipyard where naval ships were constructed; period homes serve as museums.

Outstanding are the many brick and stone barracks that have different types of architecture as they were built at different periods in the life of the naval station and army posts located there. As money becomes available, very slowly, these are being restored.

Fort Drum is near with the famous LeRay Mansion that serves as the present V.I.P. of the United States home.

I kept remembering Whitehall's part in the War of 1812. But most of the evidence of any action has disappeared. Gone are Fort Comfort and the breastworks at the north end of the Island. Gone are the shipyards that reconstructed the first warships of Macdonough's fleet and the many small boats that transported cargoes.

Gone also is the military stone storehouse of 1816 that kept naval materiel when Whitehall was a naval post after the war, and the pre-revolution house that served as headquarters of Colonel Pliny Adams on the site of the Grand Union. But we do have some of the houses of that period in our architectural heritage and the hull of the Ticonderoga, one of the ships that Macdonough brought to Whitehall when he came with the British prize fleet after the Battle of Plattsburgh.

Brownville High school stresses its local history in the War of 1812 with its band uniforms which are the style of General Jacob Brown's regiment with the high back collar. A standing ovation was given them for their rendering of the War of 1812 song, The Star Spangled Banner and one of Sousa's marches. The workshop included several other subjects helpful in the phases of an historian's work: How-to's, bibliographies, exhibit making, oral history among many.

The Association of Municipal Historians includes 1500 village, town and city historians appointed by their respective local governments. There are eight Regions in the state, ours being Region 2 composed of Rensselaer, Washington, Saratoga, Warren and Essex counties. This region is called the Upper Hudson Region. Its next meeting will be in Brant Lake. Oct. 10.

The Whitehall Times **August 31, 1978**

Washington County Historical Society **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Did you go to the Washington County Fair, 137 years old this year?

What one sees at the fair with limited time are the things of personal interest. If the interest is Whitehall, here are some that could have been seen.

Whitehall Junior-Grangers' first place exhibit "Safety Today on the Roadway" and Whitehall Grange's fourth place, "Don't Be a Careless Charlie" followed by the State Grange's theme, "Safety in Rural Living."/

The Hidden Valley Scotch Highlander cattle of Norman Gordon attracted young and old with their differences in coat.

"The Early Champlain Canal" exhibit of the Washington County Historical Society contained four enlarged pictures of early Canal Street of Whitehall along the canal and artifacts from Skenesborough Museum.

The exhibit of Washington County Department of Information with a theme representation of downtown area contained pictures of the store fronts of Frere and Co.,

Liberty Eatery and Barber's Clothing, and pictures of Skenesborough Museum and fishing on South Bay.

A pick-up was the "Directory to Local Historic Preservation Craftsmen" produced by the Washington County Advisory Council. It contains the names of local craftsmen Henry LaMore and Francis Borden.

The Whitehall Times **July 17, 1980**

Washington County Historical Society **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

On 12 July 1980 the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Washington County Historical Society was celebrated at St. Joseph's School, Fort Edward. With the recollections of two charter members and immediate past presidents, the story of the society was traced from its founding in August, 1940, when 69 charter members signed the charter.

Formed with the purpose of seeking and preserving the county's history in artifacts, genealogy and written records, it has ably fulfilled its objectives and is forming plans to continue the process in newer ways. Recently it has given financial aid to preservation to Hubbard Hall in Cambridge, Howard Hanna Memorial in Hartford, the Farmer's Museum at the Washington County Fair Grounds, and the Rexleigh Bridge in Shushan. Under formation is a syllabus for the teaching of local history in county schools beginning in the fourth grade.

County Historian Susan Wade was the moving force in the organization of the society. Her memory was honored in recollections of those members and officers who knew and worked with her. Her quiet but forceful manner was influential in gaining cooperation for the work of purposes of the society. A display of the china and glass dishes she gave to Fort Edward Museum was on display.

On display were the books and pamphlets the society has been involved in priming and distributing. Besides the earlier works of Jane Welling, the society has printed The Stiles; From Then Till Now, Hamlet Summers and; Johnson's History of Washington County. With these the society has for sale the publications of the towns' historical societies.

The meeting was under; the organization of Paul McCarty, town historian of, Fort Edward. The program was under the direction of charter member Mrs. Mary! Blackball Robson of Montreal and James Cronkhite, historian of Hudson Falls. Readers of local papers will have further details of the meeting.

Over the years Whitehall has been one of the 17 towns that have contributed to programs of the society. It has always had members, though not in great numbers. Meetings held in the village have had local historical topics. 'East Whitehall Methodist church history in the church was followed by a tea at the home of the late Mrs. Harriet Bartholomew. Another tea in the Baptist church was preceded by a paper on Whitehall-in the War of 1812. There was a visit to Skenesborough Museum. The history of the

Birthday of the United States Navy was presented in the United Methodist church. Liberty Eatery, soon after its opening, was the scene of an overflow luncheon. Recently the fishing industry founded in Whitehall was the topic after luncheon in the Trinity Episcopal Church.

Recently the society reorganized displays at the Washington county fair. This year, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Evelyn Benjamin, the theme will be the hotels and taverns of the 17 towns of Washington county. Pictures and history of these will be presented. Loans of pictures or artifacts will be appreciated to add to the display.

Washington County Historical Society is a live organization. There's fun and information and a place to develop use of leisure time for old and young.

The Whitehall Independent

August 21, 1985

Washington County Historical Society 1985

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

August days are Fair Days. Washington County Fair is one of these, located on East on field August 19 to August 24. This year is the 25th anniversary of its being on the same site. There were fairs in the county before this, especially in the latter years of the 1800s when it was known as the Agricultural in Fort Edward.

Exhibits at Washington County Fair are of all subjects in the farm and home line. For many years Washington County Historical Society has had an exhibit in the Sheriff's building with a definite theme. One year it was Industries of the County; in another it was Fire Companies. When the County Tourism Committee was in existence, slide shows were added with pictures of buildings and scenic spots within the county. Brochures for things to see and do in the county were on file.

This year, the overall theme chosen by the Washington County Historical Society trustees is the County Fair. All towns are asked to contribute to this collection. There will be old subscription books and objects that exemplify the Fair's place in county life.

Added to the display will be exhibits of two museums in the County - Old Fort House of Fort Edward and Skenesborough Museum of Whitehall. The Old Fort House will display its collection of fans, useful and ornamental, some obtained just recently from an estate. Skenesborough Museum will show Whitehall souvenir items of the late 1800s. Many of these were produced by the company of Ives and Jones, a store in Whitehall which furnished pictures to a firm in Germany. This firm produced china dishes and shipped them back to the merchants. The scenes are mainly of the early harbor and buildings like the Armory. There is some of glass.

Besides these displays there is the book section - volumes and pamphlets produced by the towns of the county. It is surprising to see the large collection that contains the history of the county. When you visit, you may be a lucky one to win a "pamphlet or book" of the day."

The Whitehall Times
July 8, 1982

Historical Institute
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



HISTORICAL INSTITUTE. Mrs. Doris Morton, Whitehall town historian, with Paul J. Scudiere of the Culture Education center, at institute conducted at Rensselaerville.

I was honored by being selected as one of the 22 New York State local historians to attend a special session of the Institute for Man and Science at Rensselaerville June 27-30.

Paul J. Scudiere of the Cultural Education Center prepared a news release for an historian's workshop:

"This institute was conducted by the Division of Historical and Anthropological Services of the State Museum, an agency of the New York State Education Department. The Division of Historical and Anthropological Services are mandated to provide direction and assistance to officially appointed county, city, town and village historians."

The institute consisted of an intense three-day course of study designed to "provide a basic orientation for historians on their duties and responsibilities. The session emphasized opportunities for the historian in the areas of research, preservation and interpretation of local history materials. The programs encouraged historians to take a more active leadership role in saving their community's heritage and in educating its residents.

The institute was held at the Institute of Man and Science in Rensselaerville and utilized the faculty and staff of the State University of New York, Bank Street College of Education and the New York Education Department as instructors. The keynote address was presented by Carol Kammen, teacher of local history at Tompkins County Community college. Professor Kammen presented a provocative essay focusing on the significance and challenge of local history and its present position with the historical community.

The historians attending this institute heard 16 addresses by distinguished persons in the historical field from New York State and New Jersey. The subject matter

covered the many phases of an historian's work, collections, preservation, interpretation and exposition of the history of the Empire State. New York was the first state, in 1919, to have a network of officially appointed historians. This came about under the tenure of Alfred E. Smith.

Local historians work with printed materials and so must be conscious of the documents of the town and village, their minutes, their records. These need care with the use of acid free containers and Mylar containers and there must be training in the processes of preservation.

For the first time the institute held sessions on folklore, oral history and preservation in this field. Recently' the taping of individuals had become important in catching the bits of local history that tend color to any story of a place.

Each participant had an opportunity to share her/his expertise with the others, though the time was limited because of the priority of the lectures. Each went home with a thick pack of extremely useful materials that will be consulted, with a sense of the importance of the work they are doing, almost on an entirely volunteer basis, and a certificate of attendance to this specialized institute.

I was able to tell of the Washington County Preservation Council's work in supplying a kit for the new course of local history in the fourth grades of the state. Whitehall and Greenwich each has a special unit while the other schools are served from one issued at BOCES. Whitehall is fortunate to have the museum in which artifacts of history can be placed and the research library in which materials on history and genealogy are being filed.

The Whitehall Times

December 9, 1982

Historian

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Life for a town and village historian usually goes along placidly in the attempt to accomplish the many phases of history in the town. But suddenly there comes an exciting interlude as occurred this past weekend.

During a 24-hour period this historian had three conversations with newspaper reporters, three with radio stations, one from the assistant State Historian, and one with the state wire service representative on the "discovery" of the ships in East Bay in Whitehall. The inquirers were astonished to learn that Whitehallers have known of the ships' existence for many years. They wanted proof of authenticity, location, the history, and the value of the "find" to Whitehall, and which war they served in.

The Whitehall Times earlier carried the story of the two-week diving operation that was carried out in East Bay this past summer. Arthur Cohn of Northern Divers in Burlington reported on the archaeological research in the Vermont History, the Proceedings of the Vermont Historical Society which assisted in the grant provided for the research. I think this report that was on the wires was what sparked the interest in the project and caused the flurry.

The reports that I saw and heard point out that the reporters did a fair piece of work. Each carefully spoke of the destruction that could be caused by amateur divers going down to see what was there. They over stressed the deterioration of the Ticonderoga hull back of Skenesborough Museum. Although not under perfect preservation, the ship is under cover and is treated periodically with preservatives.

One point of inaccuracy is the date of the birth of the United States Navy. It was in May 1775 that the American captured Liberty was taken to Crown Point and armed for a definite act of war. Benedict Arnold took the first British ship with soldiers and marines. This action was accepted and paid for by Congress. To further prove the claim the first shipyard of the United States Navy was in Skenesborough. Harbor (Whitehall) built in 1776 under the direction of Arnold.

Holiday Observances

The Whitehall Times
May 19, 1988

Whitehall Chronicle July 4, 1856
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Steamer Oliver Bascom, new and elegant, left the east bank of the harbor on a fourth of July excursion 1856. It had a polished deck, a capacious promenade, and a splendid saloon. It took two hours to go through the narrows to the wide lake to Ticonderoga. From there it went on to Burlington. The dining table seated 120 and it was filled four times with excellent viands.

In Burlington the tourists listened to public speeches, toured the campus of the University of Vermont, had tea at the American Hotel, and watched fireworks. They started home at 10 p.m. Some people in Whitehall remember such lake excursions that extended into the early part of the twentieth century.

The Whitehall Times
June 2, 1988

Whitehall Chronicle July 4, 1856
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The village celebrated the 83rd "Birthday of American Independence" in 1859 by an imposing military, firemen's and civic procession. There was an oration and other exercise at the beginning of the day and prize trial of engines in the afternoon. The music was by the Fort Edward Colonial Band. The oration was by Professor J. E. King. The Whitehall Invincibles were in full uniform. Steamer Oliver Bascom left St. John on the

evening of 2 July. The village hotels, Phoenix and Parke were ready for them. The lake trip cost \$2.

The Whitehall Times
August 20, 1987

Washington County News – 1871- St. Patrick's Day
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

This is how St. Patrick's Day was celebrated 17 March 1871. After High Mass at St. Mary's Church by Reverend Father Brennan of Valatia the Saint Patrick Temperance and Benevolent Society marched through the streets ankle deep in mud. They were led by St. Mary's Cornet Band and the Whitehall Cornet Band. The members of the Society were in their regalia and the bands, in their uniforms. In the evening all gathered in Anderson Hall to listen to a lecture by Father Brennan, "Ireland and the Irish people." This was followed with a concert by the choir of St. Mary's Church. After this, sentimental and comic music was given in solos and duets. The exercises closed at a late hour.

The Whitehall Times
December 24, 1987
Day Before Yesterday

The Holidays in Whitehall 1872
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Christmas, the happiest day in all the year, is fast approaching when almost every person expects to receive some token of love, affection, or esteem, and upon reflecting from whence comes the avalanche of presents to supply this great demand, the question naturally arises, when are you to look for them? We would that in anticipation of a large trade during the holidays, Mr. O. A. Manville, being in New York recently, purchased a large line of holiday goods which he has in his Drug Store. For a Christmas present call early and make your choice and you will have the satisfaction of witnessing the pleasure of many a heart made glad by your kindly remembrance

Don't buy your ladies and children's furs of Peddlers or others till you call and examine Mabbett's of the M. A. Store.

The French Catholic Society will hold a fair at Griswold's Hall, commencing on Monday, Dec. 23 and continues through the week with drawings of articles each evening. The managers return their thanks to the public for their liberality in aiding their cause on former occasions and would say that nothing will be lacking to render it pleasant and profitable.

For new goods for Christmas and New Years, call at Baker, Paterson and Company and purchase a useful article -all sorts of boots, shoes, trunks, reticules umbrellas, and toy trunks. Call early and inspect the goods.

The Phoenix Lodge elected officers on Christmas Eve and Washington Council on Christmas.

New Years day was celebrated and observed with the usual festivities in Whitehall. The day was bright and sunny, though fearfully cold. The sleighing was splendid and the streets were resonant with the merry music of the sleigh bells, and the joyous laughter of the more charming bells, all day and into the night. Public receptions were given and compliments of the season were given.

The ladies constituting the committee of reception at the Y.M.C.A. rooms on New Years day will please accept the thanks of the employees in the office of the Washington County News for their kindly remembrance of the printer with a bountiful supply of refreshments on that day.

A Merry Christmas To All.

The Whitehall Times December 24, 1987

Whitehall Chronicle- 1874 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Decoration Day

Remember the days when boys and girls ranged the fields and roadsides to gather daisies, buttercups, and whatever could be found in the way of flower decorations for Children's Day and graduation? When preparations for the great celebration was being readied for Decoration Day in 1874, it was discovered that the flower supply was lacking as those ordered from the city had not arrived. The teachers and children of the public school ranged the hills and woods and provided a good supply for Post John Corbett G.A.R. These were used to decorate the soldiers' graves in hanging baskets suspended in an arch over each grave.

Col. Tanner, Marshal of the Day, and his two aides were mounted. The order of the march was a cornet band, post members in new uniforms of blue and gold, the clergyman, orator General R. Rogers; the Fire Department. The exercises were performed at Boardman Cemetery. In the evening a bon fire was held. This was evidently among the first of such exercises held in Whitehall. It was hoped that the Canton, now established, would be maintained.

Fourth of July

In July 1874 Post Corbett with "High" Collins took a packet load on an excursion to Troy. Forty tickets were sold with a set of regulations against the use of liquors. The Whitehall veterans were splendid in their uniforms in the parade at Troy.

The Whitehall Times
July 11, 1974
Day Before Yesterday

1874

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The day opened by the rising of sun, including the sons and daughters of Whitehall, West Haven and Dresden. As Old Sol developed her snout over Skene's Mountain, cannon, captured by the Dutch when they took Holland, loaded with congressional speeches thundered its mellifluous notes — 3 months after date — over the town and country.

The rocks overhanging the village were whitewashed for the occasion, the cobwebs brushed from the shrubbery, and the streets of the village sprinkled by Frazier's cart with a decoction of "Ugh! de ' Cologne", and Adirondack mineral spring water.

After booming of the cannon was over — the left — the citizens, firemen, churches, societies and canal drivers congregated on J. P. Adam's land, above the depot, for the purpose of getting up a puss-session.

The Temperance Organization formed with their right bower — resting upon the railroad water tank. The Anti-Temperance element reformed with their left bower, resting upon the present license law until next year.

Church societies and organizations formed a hollow square on empty stomachs, each denomination following the particular church building, which was drawn by 40 horses in the procession.

The fire department was on duty with their engines charged with soda water and ginger ale, which they furnished to the fellows and their gals free gratis for nothing.

The common scoundrels of the town occupied hand carts and wheelbarrows, following their church societies. Little Sunday school children joined the Infantry in Arms. The dry goods merchants and their clerks shouldered their yardsticks, and when they got to their own front yard — stuck there. The grocery men organized a battalion of black horse cavalry upon mules, dried beef and lively cheese.

Lawyers and legal gentlemen appeared in law suits, trimmed with red tape. Doctors and undertakers rode in hearses, with a driver piling the ribbons over a pale horse while the man that usually gathered them in passed with a handful of spades.

Several young ladies personated the Goudv's of Liberty.

Three ancient ladies, over 100 years old each good measure, were grouped upon a cart in the attitude of three Gray-Siss, each Siss being grayer than a rat.

Citizens then fell into the line, but the committee hoped that citizens would keep sober, and not fall into the canal at the same time.

Gideon's Band having been discharged by the 43d Congress furnished the agony to march by. When the gun gave off at 11 a.m., the procession went off too, — and stayed.

The line of march was necessarily limited, and was arranged viz:

Whitehall to Plattsburgh, Plattsburgh to Burlington, Burlington to Troy, Troy to Schenectady, Schenectady to Fort Edward, brought up at Whitehall, again in time for the fireworks in the evening

Over \$29,000 was expended for the fireworks. The principal pieces were as follows:

1st. A piece of burning punk, emblematical of the late session of Congress.

2nd. An ear of corn roasting over a kerosene lamp, emblematical of Cornwallis's surrender.

3d. Fire of patriotism — a thing of the past — in fact it will give the light of other days.

4th. The old oak-hen bucket, representing the bald-headed American bird, picking acorns from the top of the tree of Liberty now so well played out.

5th. George Washington, a youth cutting down his father's cherry tree.

A little canal driver personated the unfortunate George. The tree used was a whiffle-tree. N. B. The youth could not lie.

6th. To conclude with a large bond fire, the bonds were Whitehall Railroad Bonds and were furnished by the D&H Canal Co.

All were invited to attend. Skenesboro awakened.

By Order Com.

The Whitehall Times

May 22, 1975

1875

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Decoration Day was observed, headed by Post J. C. Corbett. The drum corps marched from headquarters to decorate graves at Williams Street Cemetery, at East Whitehall, at Brick Church and at East Creek. Then the parade marched up Canal Street to Boardman Cemetery to decorate the graves there of soldiers and firemen. Two bands, the Whitehall Cornet and St. Mary's Cornet, furnished the music. The fire apparatus that were in the line of march were Engine No. 1 and Wm. H. Cooke Engine Co. No. 5. The hose companies were James Doren, George Brett, Lacca and Feely. The marshal was L. K. Pierce. Rev. Haynes of the Baptist Church gave the oration.

The Whitehall Times
December 21, 1978

1878

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



The Dec. 25 1878 issue of the Whitehall Times was a special issue with stories and poems written especially for the paper. "Herr Dahn and His Christmas Party" by one who was there was a true story written by Whitehall woman but, unsigned. "Limberger; or Santa Claus' visit to Judge Hinton; a Christmas Tale" was written by Hiram Green, Esq., who was W. W. Wilkins, the editor himself. "A Christmas Storm and What Came of it" was by Mrs. C.H. Bailey, a Whitehall citizen who produced stories and historical interviews of Whitehall.

In a special one-page supplement other stories and some poems were added, all but one poem unsigned. The stories were entitled: John Moore's "Auger Hole, a Christmas Tale." Arnold Lee, "A Christmas Story;" "Coming Home Christmas, or. Seeing Better Days;" "A Hard Old Case," a little New Year sketch; "Christmas".

The Whitehall Times
December 21, 1978

1878

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

An Editorial of 1878



Nineteen centuries ago a manger was the Savior of mankind. The Star of Bethlehem guided the wise men to the humble quarters of Him whose head circled more glory than that enjoyed by any other ruler on earth.

Today we celebrate that birth by making glad hearts in our households and about us.

Today we all feel that the race of people are one band of brothers and on Christmas Day all sectional feelings should be laid aside as we each enjoy the blessings of another holiday.

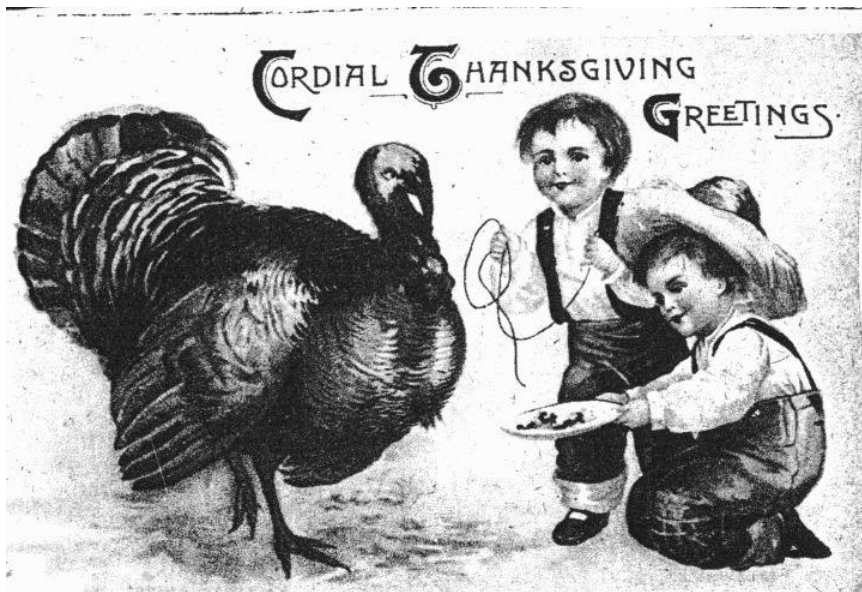
Around the family hearth will gather successive generations of each family, from the gray-haired man who is only waiting the summons to enter the presence of that King, whose birth we today celebrate, to the little prattling infant, who enters this world with bright anticipations of a glorious future.

Let us at this time be happy and merry. Let us thank God that He sent His only begotten Son that we poor mortals might be saved. Let us all gather about our firesides,

and as the gifts are showered upon us all, let us each see that no one near us suffers for want of something to eat, even if it is not in our power to give them as bountiful as we ourselves enjoy. To make it a really joyous Christmas, one should be able to say, "I have assisted to make a suffering one happy." With such a feeling, a person can enjoy that happiness which never visits him who lives like a snail within his own shell, and when danger approaches in his head, unmindful of all others about him.

The Whitehall Times
November 22, 1979

Thanksgiving 1879
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



Excerpts from an editorial of W.A. Wilkins:

Tomorrow will be a national day of Thanksgiving.

In every hamlet, town and city, praises will go up to the Father of Nations, for the manifold blessings that He has showered upon His earthly children. There is not a man, woman or child who has not something to be thankful for.

The year has been bountiful with crops.

The granaries of the great West are full with the products of the vast prairies, which will be sent broadcast to the entire world to help keep man from starvation.

The year 1879 will pass into American history as one of wonderful prosperity — The cotton crop is larger by half a million bales than ever before; the sugar crop 12,000,000 pounds larger; the molasses crop: 200,000 hogsheads above any previous yield; of wheat the product is 20,000,000 bushels more than ever before and of corn 100,000,000 bushels. These are significant figures to put on record and mark an era of

marvelous industry and prosperity in singular contrast with the condition of war clouded Europe.

The factories of the East are again, experiencing good times, and the capitalists of the whole land are again looking forward to days of prosperity.

With the exception of a slight recovery from "yellow jack," our land has enjoyed an era of health.

War has not desolated our land. America, the home of the free, is justly recognized as a great nation, and today the Stars and Stripes float on all waters, the peer of any colored bunting, as the emblem of a nation of intelligence, wealth and courage. Of course many feel that the past year has brought them deep affliction and that the hand of God has chastised them grievously yet such chastisement is sure to occur in the course of human events to all the people of this land.

Thanksgiving afternoon Butler and Brennan will give a matinee at Hall's open house for the accommodation of ladies and children. The beautiful play, "The Factory Girl," will be given, to be followed by a laughable farce. Price of admission: Adults, 20 cents; children 10 cents each.

Doren Hose will hold a Thanksgiving Ball at their rooms. Mrs. C. J. Burdette will furnish the supper and Peco the music. Supper will be had at Mrs. Burdett rooms.

The Whitehall Times December 20, 1879

Christmas 1879 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



Christmas holidays in 1879 — were they different? The Whitehall Times was very pleased to print literature especially written for the Dec. 24 issue of the paper. There were three poems and two short stories by Whitehall people. One story was by Mrs. Chas. H. Bailey, a Whitehaller who furnished much information on Whitehall in interviews about her early life. The second story was by Editor W. A. Wilkins himself, his first attempt at writing fiction. Each one dealt with the sad conditions of poor families and the almost miraculous kindness of people who wanted to help. This, of course, is the spirit of Christmas.

Our merchants are happy because trade was never better. There was good sleighing even though the temperature was 10 degrees below zero.

The advertisements of this issue were "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year" to the customers. Before, the columns urged buying jewelry from Pike, newly

manufactured baking powder from P. W. Barry, tea sets from MacLachlin, fall and winter goods from Follett's, the "Queen of Heaters" from Wood & Hotchkiss, and clocks and dolmans from Griswold's.

An interesting column contained a holiday directory of all who had advertised in the paper during the year; staples and dry goods, 3; groceries and provisions, 8; hardware. 2; drugs and medicines, 4; watches and jewelry, 2; books, stationery and school books, 3; children's toys, 4; boots, shoes and hats, 3; coal, 1; bill poster, 1; confectionery, 7; millinery, 1; ready made clothing, 2; flour, meal and feed, 3; cutters, sleighs and harness, 2; insurance agents, 4; dentists, 2.

The W. H. Cook Engine Company and Lacca Hose would hold their annual ball this Christmas Eve.

Snowballs filled with Christmas gifts were the latest idea of holiday humor. A frame of whalebone or wire in halves was filled with toys and bonbons, covered with thick paper, the halves lightly fastened together and the whole covered with pure white wadding. If made small, the fun of pelting the family with them, scattering the presents over their heads, would be great. If large, the ball could be rolled into the room and form the ceremonies of the morning.

"Bring holly leaves of
polished green;
The Christmas feast is
bravely set,
And over all the Earth',
I ween,
The countless Christmas
guests are met."

The Whitehall Times
December 27, 1979

New Year 1880
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



1880 was Leap Year; so is 1980.

Don't break your good resolutions as if it were a bank.

Evidently the custom of New Year's calls were formalized, for The Whitehall Times editor offered to print the names of Whitehall ladies who were keeping open house on New Year's Day if they would notify him. Fifty years ago the calling system was still in vogue for I knew a daughter who always reserved that afternoon to guide her father safely from place to place in the village and then drive him safely home after the tasting of the many homemade wines of the many hostesses. He had a hilarious time.

"Snow flakes are the frozen particles of God's breath."

The holiday season was one for balls, opera house entertainments, musicals and election of the next year's officers for many organizations.

On 9 January the famous annual ball of Whitehall Steamer 3 took place at the Opera House. Pecor's band furnished the finest of music.

Mr. Martin's class of the Presbyterian Church gave a public benefit. The class took part with the assistance of outside talent.

On New Year's Eve the second sociable of the Burleigh Corps took place in the Corps' drill room. Fred Austin and his orchestra were present and the opening concert was delightful. Since this was leap year the ladies managed the affair as they did every four years.

The Week of Prayer and Services was held in the various churches. Each night was dedicated to a certain purpose education, home and foreign missions, etc.

Social and literary clubs convened for recitations, readings, and original writings such as La Favorite Club always described as exceedingly pleasant as well as instructional.

The Whitmore and Clark minstrels entertained at the Opera House. The end men were praised.

Lists of all the officers were, fully made with their special duties — bank directors, church societies, fire companies, Sunday school classes, lodges. Whitehall was fortunate to have community affairs to keep its citizens busy and in service to the community.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

The Whitehall Times December ????

Christmas Issue of 1880 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

W. A. Wilkins, editor of The Whitehall Times, had a sense of the ridiculous. Here is a poem he wrote for the 22 December issue, 1880:

She was clothed in her best for the market intent,
Her donkey took fright and away the beast went;
He ran like lightning, she screamed like thunder,
The cart went over, the gal went under. The noise of her voice then made such a clatter,

The people drew/nigh and asked, "what's the matter?"
Beneath-the cart in a terrible plight
Lay the fair damsel, in OH such a fright.
Basket of eggs o'er breast was broken,
Tomatoes all smashed in her shawl were soak-in;
From head to feet a gallon of milk
Had spattered and speckled her best Sunday suit.
Beside all this, a pot of Dutch cheese
Was smashed and scattered from chin to her knees.
The girl kept moaning and screeching like sin,
Till all who listened were crazed by the din.
"Arm broke?" "Limbs crushed?" "Back dislocated?"
"Neck broke? Head crushed? Killed? Masticated?"
Cried many voices in awful alarm
At hearing the damsel bewailing her harm.
With rage, in an instant, her grief seemed to cool,
She arose and said "D'ye think me a fool?
If crushed and killed, I'd care not a fig,
But look, the darn truck has spoiled by best rig.
And, see there — boo hoo — this pesky red tussle

Has knocked the stuffm out of my bussle."

There was not much about Christmas in the paper except the advertisement for holiday gifts or birthday presents. J. H. Sullivan got in a ton of choice candy, oranges, California white grapes, nuts and raisins. People were buying candy and even luscious oysters, lemons, Detroit crackers, buckwheat and an immense stock of groceries.

A single sheet — Holiday Supplement — was printed. It contained articles on Seasonal thoughts, Christmas thoughts, Christmas in Sweden, Santa Claus, short, short stories and Clement Moore's "The Night Before Christmas."

The front page of the issue was filled with a short story by W. A. Wilkins "Fanny Burnside, A Christmas Story."

The Whitehall Times **July 2, 1981**

Fourth of July 1881 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

The Fourth this year was a quiet one for Whitehall. Some small boys were burned by firecrackers. One lad was knocked down by a horse but luckily the horse jumped over him and the lad was not injured.

The greatest excitement was the arrival of 600 people from Port Henry on the excursion boat Hooker. They filled the streets for about an hour amid the strains of the Port Henry Band that accompanied them before retiring to the boat to return home. This number of people seems large for our streets but present day recollections can remember the thousands that were here during the 1959 and 1976 bicentennial celebrations.

The Whitehall Times **November 26, 1981**

Thanksgiving 1881 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Thanksgiving Proclamation 100 Years Ago **By Alonzo B. Cornell** **Governor of New York State**

With gratitude to our Heavenly Father for the continued protection and the many manifestations of Divine favor bestowed upon the people of this state, Thursday, the twenty-fourth day of November, instant, is hereby designated and set apart as a day of Thanksgiving to Him for the measure of prosperity which has attended us during the year now rapidly drawing to a close.

Although the parched earth has withheld a portion of its usually generous production, yet careful cultivation has been reasonably remunerated, and the garnered harvests will amply supply the necessities of those dependent on them. Commercial and

individual pursuits have continued to enjoy exceptional prosperity, labor has been well employed and fairly compensated, and a good condition of public health has prevailed; while idleness and want have never, perhaps, been less observed or known in our midst. Despite a great national calamity, by which the chosen ruler of the country (President Garfield) has been removed through assassination, the public peace has been undisturbed and the laws have been generally respected.

Gratefully appreciating all the mercies vouchsafed unto us, and realizing our entire dependence upon Almighty God for the continuance of life and happiness, it is recommended the people of this state suspend all secular pursuits, and assemble in their usual place of worship; humbly acknowledge their indebtedness to Him for the blessings enjoyed during the past year. Let the day also be improved by the gathering together of families in bonds of affection. May friendships be renewed and all enmities forgotten, while the poor and the sick, the afflicted and unfortunate should be generously remembered.

Done at the Capitol, in the City of Albany, this fourth day of November in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-one.

— Alonzo B. Cornell

The churches of Whitehall held union services on Thanksgiving morning and at night the St. John Baptist Benevolent Society enjoyed a rare time at a ball. The Ladies Benevolent Society heard an annual address at the Presbyterian Church---and “turkey ruled the day.”

The Whitehall Times
December 24, 1981

Whitehall's Holiday Season in 1881
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Dec. 24, 1981
Turn of the century
Christmas greeting cards



The issue of the Whitehall Times for 21 December had material on the Christmas Holidays, including the Holliday Supplement. The first item was a poem entitled "Christmas" by Caro S. Bailey (aged six years)

Happy sleigh-bells! Ring! Ring! Ring!
Children's voices! Sing! Sing! Sing!
Icy waters, snowy streets,
Golden sunshine, dancing feet,
Joyful hearts are beating fast,
For Christmas day has come at last.

This was followed by two short Christmas stories, Editor Wilkins. "The Lost Pocket Book", and the second by Mrs. Charles H. Bailey (Sara's mother) entitled 'The Laundry-man's Story'. I wouldn't exactly call them merry Christmas material for each was filled with pathos for the poor and heavy laden characters

Mr. Wilkins editorial stressed the joys of Christmas, especially for the young. He said. "The deception of Saint Nicholas is not a sin; God never censures mankind for the innocent illusion that brings joy to young hearts." His sanctimonious levity column brought forth some fun especially for in "Christmas in "Christmas Caramels" such as Christmas trees are very spruce; winter is coming with its Christmas presence."

The fourth page, usually devoted to advertisements had another special of little Sara Bailey, this time about her sister Marion who went with Santa Claus to his hone after filling all the stockings according to Moore.

With this issue of The Times was the extra edition promised the week before.

It was a four page five-column sheet printed on cream colored paper. Most of the material was original matter written especially for this issue of The Times. There were stories, (which modern readers would doubtless lift eyebrows about), poems and sketches all holiday oriented.

Besides the literature, including the bible story of
(This was all that was shown of this article kb)

The Whitehall Times **May 27, 1982**

Memorial Day in 1882 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Memorial Day in 1882 featured a parade with the decorations of the deceased soldiers' graves in the town. In the morning firing squads visited the Beckwith Cemetery to decorate the grave of Lt. David E. Beckwith and the graves of the soldiers in Williams Street Cemetery, placing wreaths upon them under the direction of Capt. L. H. Carrigan.

At 1:15 the procession formed at drum beat on Canal Street (Main), the Burleigh Corps with Capt. J. H. Parke commanding, just south of Saunders Street to the right; the fire department with W. F. Bascom, chief engineer, to the center. The St. Joseph Society under Pierre Normani and St. John the Baptiste under Frank Bellegarde formed behind them in front of the Renois Building, at the corner of Saunders and Canal.

The clergy, glee club, officers of the village and the town, members of the press, school and citizens joined behind them, coming out from Saunders Street where they had lined up.

At 1:30, under Marshall Dr. Root, the procession proceeded up Canal Street (Broadway) to Boardman Street and on to the Boardman Cemetery to the speakers' platform. The program consisted of the invocation by the Rev. J. A. Hall, a glee club presentation by the quartet of J. F. Clark, H. H. Skeels, Edward Skeels and Thomas Wilson with Edward Clarke the organist; an address by Charles G. Davis, Esq., placing of the wreaths on the graves of the deceased soldiers of the Civil War and the War of 1812, a glee club song, and the benediction by the Rev. C. Edwards. The parade turned down Boardman Street to the New Road and down Williams Street. At the middle bridge the veterans opened ranks and saluted the passing companies.

Mrs. L. H. Carrigan and Mrs. M. Murphy with 18 other women and 24 girls made up the bouquets. Mrs. Carrigan originated the memento "Col. A. H. Tanner, 1882" in large letters of evergreen for the speakers' platform. Mrs. R. H. Adams and Mrs. Minnie Phoenix presented flowers to the members of St. Joseph and St. John the Baptiste who marched in the parade. Thirty-four graves were decorated in the Boardman and Smith cemeteries and seven in Williams Street Cemetery in the morning.

Eben Blin placed two barrels of ice water on the grounds of the ceremonies, which pleased a great many people.

The Whitehall Times
July 1, 1982

Fourth of July, 1882
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Fourth of July has always been a gala day in our country. One hundred years ago the United States circus was the drawing card for Whitehall besides the usual holiday activities. From the surrounding towns and rural districts came the crowds. Morning brought several loaded trains. Soda fountains, cigar stands, refreshment booths, hotels and saloons did a big business. At the afternoon performance of the circus nearly 3,000 people were present.

The acrobatic part of the show was good. There was a fine display of animals and the cage with five young lions was the center of attraction. The usual pop of firecrackers and small cannon was heard. During the evening there were displays of fireworks. The 100th anniversary of American independence was thus observed.

The big United States circus, Myers and Shooles and Higgs Zoological aggregation combined with the Great Eastern Circus, Carnival, Museum and Mammoth Racing Balloon show was advertised in the newspaper of 21 June 1882.

None could miss the information in the 6 ½ X 9 ½ inch announcement of its two performances, afternoon and evening, with the doors open an hour ahead of time the show was to start under its monster pavilion. The site was not given. Perhaps it was at Boardman Field, which was near the head of Maple Street where the Veterans Association was to be held in August. (There was a Boardman Field that was probably the scene of the latter occasion, according to Ben Carpenter's recollection, instead of a later Adams Field.)

The Chicago Times of 2 May had reported of the circus, "The ring performance is a clean, well regulated one, the reserved seating being of a kind to receive commendation." A grand street procession had two bands and there was a great outside free show.

Another kind of show was in Whitehall at this time — nature's freaks displayed in Chief Brett's store. William Wheeler showed a rare distortion of nature — two medium onions closely bound together by two more, which had grown about them beginning at the roots and being wound about the two upright stalks as a piece of rope might be to keep the pair from falling apart.

Earlier exhibits of last year — Asa Abel gloried in being the possessor of a mammoth squash, the jumbo of garden truck. Boss Pecor was the propagator of the revised bean pods, planting a sunflower in each hill of beans. James Conery could produce a potato bug that could get away with on ordinary mud turtle!

The Whitehall Times
May 26, 1983

May 1883
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Memorial Day in May 1883 was the first year the day was so named. The National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic had just passed a resolution declaring the holiday known as, Decoration Day and hereafter called Memorial Day.]

Whitehall had its usual exercises May 30. It was a day that the community took part in as a whole. The Veterans, The Burleigh Corps, the; St. Joseph Society, the school principals, the teachers and the ladies of the village took part and the population turned out to see the parade and hear the oration.

Under Marshal Lieutenant Henry Root, a doctor in the Civil War, the usual exercises were planned with a line of march up Canal Street to Boardman Cemetery where the platform was erected, for the services. The alternate plan in case of rain would be the Opera House on Williams Street.

On 30 May Veterans marched from their quarters in the Parke Building (not the Parke House, that later became Hall Hotel, which burned in 1876) to the Opera House, for it rained. Fillmore the photographer snapped pictures of the group and of the individuals who were participants. (This photographer took many pictures of Whitehall places and people. There must be many around the village homes that could be copied for our files.) Familiar names in the list were Rev, McMillan of Trinity Church, Dr. Senton (one of the quartet) the Skeel brothers who also vocalized, H. G. Burleigh, the Rev. Lockwood of the Baptist Church who gave the oration, Judge Potter, and Rev. H. W. Finch.

The Burleigh Corps escorted the Veterans to Boardman Cemetery where the graves of the soldiers in the War of 1812 and the Civil War were decorated. Luke Carrington had already led the decorators to Williams Street.

Notes on the exercises were listed. The Veterans showed good discipline, their marching showing the skills of a score of years ago. The St. Joseph Society appeared in good numbers and marched well. Arthur Morris acted as usher to the town and the village officials who were invited to sit on the stage. Harry Hill and Walter Wait were ushers for the ladies who furnished the flowers. Professor Miller had offered the services of the teachers and they made up the bouquets for the graves. Mr. Maranville of West Haven brought a wagon of evergreens for the wreaths. William Fraser furnished ice free of charge

After the exercises at the cemeteries the line marched back over Boardman Street and over the new road to Williams Street and down that to the middle bridge where the veterans passed through the lines of the Burleigh Corps.

An editorial note at the end of the article read: Our villagers could see on Decoration Day that Burleigh Corps is an ornament to the community.

The Whitehall Times
July 4, 1985

Memorial Services for a Hero
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

To mark the 100th anniversary of the death of General Ulysses S. Grant July 23, 1885, services will be conducted at the Grant Cottage on Mt. McGregor. Invitations have been issued for a ceremony July 20, 1985 at 11 a.m. by the sponsoring organizations: Sons of Union Veterans and Auxiliary, Wilton Heritage Society, and Saratoga-Capital District State Park Commission. The ceremony will be held on the grounds of the Mt. McGregor Correctional Facility outside the prison fence. The address will be given by Dr. John Y. Simon, Executive Director of the Ulysses S. Grant Foundation.

A custom of the later years of the 19th century and the first part of the 20th in many communities was to hold memorial services for state and national heroes. On the death of U.S. Grant such a service was held in Whitehall. Pre and post articles in the Whitehall Times describe the occasion.

The event was held 8 August 1885 at Hall's Opera House at 2 p.m. It was sponsored by a joint committee of citizens, Village officials, and Whitehall veterans. Chaired by Honorable H. G. Burleigh all businesses were closed and every one was expected to attend.

The singing was under the direction of the noted J. F. Clark with the choruses of all the churches. The songstress Carrie Broughton was accompanied by her sister Mattie, who was the organist on the organ loaned by W. H. Cooke.

The first observance was the tolling of the village bell answered by all the church bells for an hour, beginning at 9 a.m., the hour of Grant's funeral obsequies in New York City. This was repeated at 1:30 p.m., the time when the funeral cortege reached Grant's tomb.

At 2 p.m. the Burleigh Corps with reversed arms marched from the Anderson Hall armory over the foot bridge to escort Tanner Post 263 G.A.R. to the Opera House where they received the salute of the veterans. All elderly people and veterans who personally knew Grant and served under him had reserved seats.

At the Opera House Burleigh Corps sat the right of the hall and Tanner Post at the left. The stage of the hall was draped with a picture of General Grant loaned by George Clemons of Dresden. The order of the program was: invocation by Rev. A. McMullen; opening remarks by Judge Potter, substituting for H. G. Burleigh; address by Rev. Joseph Zweifel; address by Judge Potter on the life of the hero and past president; reading of the hymn "To Thee O Country" by Rev. M. Lockwood; music; address by W. H. Tefft, editor of the Chronicle; benediction by Rev. H. W. Finch.

The ceremony lasted 2 1/2 hours. The editor of the paper suggested the citizens then knew "more than they wanted to" about the great hero. The bouquets were given by the lady graduates of the Union High school.

The Whitehall Independent

July 3, 1985

The Fourth in 1885

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Fourth of July, for some reason or other, was not celebrated in Whitehall in the earlier years. The inhabitants seemed to go to other places for their celebrations. This year we will celebrate with a band concert and the Mettawee Valley Players.

The James Doren Hose Company No. 1 was incorporated on June 18, 1885 in time for Independence Day. Its corporate existence was to be for twenty-five years. The first officers elected had familiar Whitehall names: John Sinnott, five years; Charles Quigley, four years; S. H. Waters, three years; P. F. X. Renois, two years; J. H. Townsend, one year.

The Fourth was a quiet day in 1885. Many citizens went to Plattsburgh with the Burleigh Corps. Others went to Fort Edward, which had its largest celebration in many years. The only company that went from Whitehall was the Church Company which did not bring back any prizes.

Trinity Church held a Fourth celebration in the afternoon. An elaborate program and a flag drill by the young ladies of the congregation was performed. There were races, rides on Robert Hall's pony, and various sports. An interesting event was the opening of the mite boxes. From February the pennies, nickels and dimes had been dropped into these boxes, usually only by children. When the count was made of the 35 pounds of coins, it produced \$228 which was added to the building fund to help pay for the land and buildings south of the church that had been purchased from Mrs. Tisdale.

The Whitehall Independent

December 25, 1985

Christmas Doings

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Count and Countess Magic entertainment was held at the Opera House.

The Baptist Sabbath School has a Christmas tree in the transept.

At the Catholic churches, Notre Dame and Our Lady of Angels, high mass was celebrated, the Revs. Father Ethier and J. J. McDonnell officiating. The choirs in both churches rendered some fine selections. The French Music and Literary Circle furnished the music for the French Church.

The Christmas tree exercises of the Methodist Sunday School were held in the church on Christmas night. Santa Claus made his appearance.

Services at Trinity Church were held on Christmas Day. At the children's service in the evening, the cantata and Deus were by Sir John Goss.

Young men gathered at the Railroad Y.M.C.A. Christmas evening for an informal musical concert.

The concert of the new band of the French Musical Circle took place at the hall of St. John Baptist, 24 December.

Advertisements advised oysters at Witherbee's, Christmas Cards at Manville's, elegant mirrors at Broughton's, a fine line of jewelry at R. A. Chapin's, the finest line of china and glass at Wood & Hotchkiss.

The Whitehall Times

July 17, 1985

July 1886

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

One Hundred Years Ago In Whitehall. 1886

In July The Fourth was celebrated with fireworks all over the Village with skyrockets, roman candles, and so on. One boy was burned by firecrackers afire in his pocket. Most of the people went to Fair Haven for the races and baseball. It was, a hot blistering day. Martin and Pierce who had a fireworks booth by Mrs. Millett's ice cream parlor on Canal (Main) Street lost their entire stock by a match that fell into a package of fireworks. Loss \$9.

The Whitehall Independent

December 31, 1986

December 1886

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A Happy New Year to All

Many people can remember that in their younger days it was the thing to do to make New Year's Resolutions. These were not just mental exercises but were put down in lists, the longer the better. Many diaries were started with the intention of having a history of a life at year's end. However these writings came usually at an end by February. Sadly, the way of diaries is past. Now the quick telephone over the miles has done away with the family letters" on which many histories and novels were based; it has obliterated this resource" almost entirely.

Newspapers printed rules for making~ resolutions. Editor Wilkins made many of his Sanctorum Comments on them. These are an example:

Resolve as you may, resolve as you will

Make no resolve that will soon come to nil.

Let us resolve to make a resolve that cannot dissolve.

When a resolution is once formed, half of the difficulty is over.

Resolution is the mother of security.

Resolutions without thought bring disaster without remedy.

A good resolution is the most fortifying armor a good man can wear._

Resolution is necessary to guard against dejection.
A quiet, courageous resolution is better than a gradual deliberation.

The Whitehall Times
May 10, 1979

May 1889
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A.H. Tanner Post, 563,
G.A.R. Memorial Days

On 14 May 1889 at the regular meeting of the post a committee was appointed to make necessary arrangements for Memorial or Decoration Day, as it was called. Immediately after the regular meeting a special meeting was held and chairmen appointed for the various duties: Secretary, Marshal, Assistant Marshal, Speaker, Platform, music, flowers, flags and markers at the graves. Invitations to invite the trustees and all Societies of the village were to be sent. The committees were to report in a week.

Reports on 22 May were good. R.C. Cook was to deliver the address, trustees of the village promised to erect the platform; music was to be by the Juvenile Band, two fifers, a bass drummer, and the Fire Department band; flowers, flags and markers and invitations were in process.

On 23 May it was determined that the post would attend in a body at some place of worship the Sunday preceding the day and a committee was appointed to make arrangements for this service. At the regular 28 May meeting the orders were for the post to turn out in uniform as far as possible and all to turn out in regulation hats, badges and canes on Memorial Day. Another committee was appointed to procure evergreens and bring them to the post, to procure tubs and water and wait on the ladies who would make the wreaths. They asked the village trustees to have two officers to keep order at the stand, and at the cemetery, any compensation to be paid by the village.

On 11 June at the regular meeting all the committees made reports which were accepted and the committees were discharged. In addition a vote of thanks to Mrs. Staten for the flowers carried, to N. W. Vannier for ice and to all ladies and societies that turned out, to the clergy, to R. C. Cook and P. M. Corbett for pictures and frames presented to the post, was made. A card of thanks was to be printed in the Whitehall Chronicle.

This was the only year to 1893 that details were given for the Memorial Day procedure. In 1890, 100 invitations were printed. The village trustees erected a stand at Boardman cemetery. The Church services were held at Our Lady of Angels with Rev. Father McDonald officiating at 9 a.m. Memorial Day. The comrades turned out in uniforms as far as they were able but all wore Grand Army hats and white gloves. Comrade Daley carried other comrades to the different cemeteries. The report of 10 June said that everything passed off pleasantly and satisfactorily to each and all. Adjutant Tinsley was complimented as having taken his part in the exercises with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of all present.

In 1891 a committee of five attended to the ceremonies. The speaker was Honorable W. H. Tefft.

In 1892 a committee did the work and all were to attend in a body.

In 1893 the comrades were to attend the Presbyterian Church in a body. They invited the Women's Relief organization to accompany the post to the church. In 1894 the minutes reported that Decoration Day was respected in accordance with the General of G.A.R. An invitation was extended to the Burleigh Corps, the firemen, the board of education and, the clergy to assist in the services.

It would seem that the format for observing Memorial Day is not too different from the 1890's except in transportation, numbers of people attending, and number of cemeteries visited.

The Whitehall Times December 29, 1983

New Year's Holiday 1895 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

At the turn of the twentieth century, perhaps between 1885 and 1920, Whitehall had great talent in its musicians in the fields of voice and instruments. So many in fact that the New Year of 1885 was ushered in with sixty performers in Gilbert and Sullivan's "Pirates of Penzance." All these were local talent.

The 10 main characters were directed by Lawrence D. Tefft. The orchestra of 11 members performed under the direction of C. E. Pond. The chorus was made up of the remainder of the 60.

All these musicians composed the Comedy Opera Company. They performed in grand choruses, sparkling and catchy solos, duets, trios with unique costumes, and special scenic effects. Tableaux were made effective with colored electric lights. These details were advertised in previews, stressing effects that modern audiences take for granted when attending a musical.

This musical was performed in Music Hall, January 2, 3, and 4 for the benefit of the Railroad Y.M.C.A. Reserved seats were purchased at Broughton's Drug Store for 35 cents.

The principals in the comedy were well known because of their performance in "The Mikado" and "Patience" given the previous two years. Lawrence D. Tefft, C. D. Broughton, Mr. Duso, and Franc Wilson had acted in former years supported by talent brought in from outside. But this year the participants of the village presented for the first time their excellent talents. There were teachers, housewives, shop keepers, silk mill personnel, and many others who "covered themselves with glory" and divided the honors with the principals.

After the New Year production the Company was invited to Ticonderoga to perform in the Ives Opera House. This meant rehearsals before they took a day off from work and boarded a special train at 1 p.m. and reached Ticonderoga in less than an hour. Before the evening performance, many were able to sight see in the village. After the evening drama they left Ticonderoga at 1 a.m. and reached Whitehall about 24 hours after they left. The expenses of the trip were not covered by the performance, with its \$110

receipts. But it had been a spectacular performance enjoyed by the Ticonderoga audience as it had been in Whitehall three weeks before.

The Whitehall Times
May 21, 1987

Fourth of July 1914 - 1915
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The W. P. Potter Camp, Spanish War Veterans took over the responsibilities once carried by the G.A.R. Veterans. Exercises were held July 4 to honor the heroes dead. On that day also Riverside Park was dedicated and the American flag raised on its forty foot pole. "The Bivouac of the Dead" was the poem recited on that day.

The Whitehall Times
July 23, 1987

Christmas Plans 1915
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

By 3 November 1915 the ladies of the village were deep in plans for a turkey dinner with all the trimmings with plum pudding and a Christmas tree with presents for the unhappy children of the village. To pay for this project they would have a charity ball given by local talent. Mrs. R. H. Hayes was the chairman and the committee was composed of two young women of each of the churches. The tree would be in Riverside Park and the dinner in Trinity Church Hall.

The Whitehall Times
November 28, 1985

Bits and Pieces of Whitehall in 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Memorial parade of this year was declared one of the best ever held. It contained Grand Marshall Captain H. E. Sullivan, with Rev. A. L. Berger and Captain Byron E. Hupman as aides, Howitzer club, Gold Star mothers, auxiliary of the American Legion, and Veterans of three wars. The line of march was from Bascom and Brett's store (Barber's), up Main Street to East Boardman, over the bridge to Williams Street, and down Williams to Saunders Street Bridge. There a ceremony was performed in honor of the boys of World War I who did not return. As each name was read a bouquet of

flowers was cast into the water of Wood Creek. Colonel E. A. Greenwood was in charge. Three volleys and taps were followed by the usual Memorial Day selections. The national anthem was played by the; Whitehall Military band.

Luncheon in the Legion rooms was served by the ladies of the auxiliary. A band concert was held in the evening.

The Whitehall Times

February 27 1986

Bits and Pieces of Whitehall in 1922

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Armistice Day was observed, by American Legion Post 83 and the Junior Chautauqua. Mrs. Pray was in charge. At Trinity Hall the prizes were given for the best essay on the topic "What in Your Opinion would be the most appropriate memorial to the deceased and living soldiers of Whitehall and your reason." At the reading of the essays Mae Finch had won the ten dollar gold prize; Eleanor Onglee, the five dollar gold piece; and Hazel Bellegarde, gained special mention.

Mae thought a public hospital dedicated to Company I for great valor on the field of battle would be a lasting memorial. Eleanor's opinion that a monument in honor of the soldiers placed where everyone could see it would be better. Hazel favored a granite memorial set in granite placed in Riverside Park with the word "Victims of World War, Living and Dead 1917-1918" would be fine. The chair of the committee was Reverend Arthur L. Berger, Chaplain of the American Legion Post.

Hotels, Taverns & Inns

HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROGRAM

ON HOTELS, TAVERNS, INNS

Tonight we are to talk on some hotels, taverns, and inns of Whitehall. What's the difference among those terms ?

Well, an inn was usually a home that took in people to eat and sleep. Sometimes entertainment was furnished.

That's why then in 1797 John Durang and his wife put up at Nois's Inn when they went through Whitehall with Rickett's circus. He didn't say where the inn was located but he did say it was a "good house, the landlord and wife genteel people. Here we supped and lodged. In the morning we settled our bill and set out on our journey."

Yes, and Thomas Macdonough put up at such an inn when he stayed here overnight with his bride in 1813. Now, a tavern was a place where drinks were sold retail. It didn't

have to be an overnight place but many had ballrooms for entertainment and a special room was called a taproom.

I've heard there were taverns in Whitehall along the early stage coach routes. The George Ackley tavern on the parking lot of the grocery on Broadway was such a one. This was on the road to Fort Ann in Revolutionary times. The Society has had a description of that in a former program.

There was another on the road to Fair Haven in Bartymetown, near the cemetery. The present Jones home was built in 1819 on the site of the old tavern. This home had the taproom and the ballroom. Another on the road to Albany was on the site of the Pangman home on the hill of that name.

I think I know what a hotel is - it's a public place where one can have overnight accommodations.

Sometimes these were called houses. Former Town Historian, Clarence Holden, says that in 1784 Joel Adams ran the Bay House on the east bank of South Bay near and west of a point of rocks south of a small brook. Later he kept a tavern on the Wood Creek road.

According to authorities, Johnson and Stone, there were four hotels in Whitehall in 1817. Wiswells Hotel stood to the south of the present Elks Club. It was to this hotel that General Lafayette walked from the steam boat landing, passing the row of flower girls who strewed rose petals in his path, where he ate dinner, and from where he departed by carriage for Albany. Bellamy House was on the site of the gas works which was located between present Main Street and Broadway at the north end of the village. The Grand Union Hotel was about where Beckwith's was on Main Street near Clinton Avenue. Later the Yule House occupied this site. Anthony Rock's Hotel was near this spot also.

The Shamrock Tavern is mentioned in the story "Life in Ship Fever Times" of 1847. According to the introduction of the book reprinted in 1900 this was a real stone building kept by Charles O'Leary. It occupied the site of the Renois block on Main Street and extended across Saunders Street that was not opened until 1867.

Just south of that building on the present sites of former Pippo and Roselli stores was the Whitehall House which burned in 1835. Another hotel was built there in 1836. This hotel accounts for the many names of hotels that makes one reading newspapers of the early times think Whitehall was overloaded with places to stay. This is its story. John Parke was the proprietor of the first hotel in 1836 under the name Anglo Saxon. He kept it until 1839 when he leased it to Captain Arch A. Ferris from Plattsburgh who in turn kept it two years and was succeeded by John Ward of Troy. In 1843 Mr. Joseph Allen leased the house for five years and remained the landlord for four years. He sold it to Samuel M. Jillson who kept it one year. In 1849 E. K. & A. Scovil took possession and after making extensive alterations opened it as the United States. These brothers were succeeded in 1851 by a Mr. Potter and him by John C. Parke who changed its name to Parke House. Subsequently its management passed into the hands of George Phetaplace from Sandy Hill (now Hudson Falls) and in 1860 Joseph Allen, at which time the house underwent extensive repairs, being remodeled inside. Mr. Allen, as its landlord, remained four years and sold his lease to J.W. Ingalls and Elisha Scott of this place. In 1865 Ingalls and Scott purchased the property of J. H. H. Parke for the sum of \$12,500, and after two years partnership they sold to C. C. Knights, the 1876 landlord of the Knight House, Fair Haven, Vt. "Charley" finding a customer a Massachusetts man, John W. Smith who was

anxious to invest to the amount of \$17,000 was installed its landlord. Six months was sufficient for him to keep a hotel in Whitehall. He then sold to the Hall Brothers, the price paid being \$13,000. Its name was changed to Hall's Hotel and the first of January 1870 it was opened under its management, J. W. Hall its landlord. Some three years later the Hall Brothers made extensive improvements by an additional story, with French roof, and the addition of the bank building. Owing to the many improvements made and the successful management, the property advanced in value from \$12,500 in 1865 to \$50,000 at the time it was destroyed in 1876. It burned Sunday evening at 8:00, March 16, 1876.

Another famous hotel was the Phoenix. In fact there were two hotels by that name. An early map, 1850, shows the first site; at the point of the early flatiron point just west of the three locks. This first Phoenix stood on the site of the village administration building. The hotel was a two-story brick building with double piazza. This Phoenix hotel was owned by Joseph Allen who in 1857 sold the property to New York State to make room for the combined locks. A system of locks was then in use but it was several feet to the east of the locks before the present 1912 lock. Mr. Allen after selling the property to the State opened the second Phoenix on the site of the present Elks Club on Williams Street. The cupola of the old Phoenix Hotel was transferred to the east side of the creek where, standing on the bank on North Williams Street nearly in front of the Doren Building. It was occupied as a dwelling with various additions and repairs.

The Clinton House, named for Governor Clinton, stood in 1847 on Clinton Avenue, west of the bridge over the lower lock. On the east side of the canal also was the American Hotel. The Whitehall Democrat of May 5, 1848 gives this description: The American Hotel just south of the upper bridge is large and commodious and has excellent accommodations and is in a delightful location. The table will at all times be furnished with the substantiate and luxuries of the season. Formerly owned by E. Ingalls it was purchased by W. H. Hagadorn. Breakfast was two shillings; dinner, three.

Still another hotel of the middle eighteen hundreds was one owned by James L. Pringle. He gave notice through the Whitehall Democrat that he had rented the House directly opposite the Packet Landing, lately occupied by W. H. Hagadorn. It would be ready by April 1, 1847 and the subscriber hoped for his share of patronage. The table and bar would be O.K. and a hair dressing and shaving saloon would be in the same building.

In 1861 there were many taverns. In various accounts are mentioned, those of Mrs. Pattison, M. Dill, and J .E. Marsden. This account was given in the June 18, 1861 Whitehall Chronicle: A woman known as Bridget Leonard was supposed to have been murdered last night in the Wakefield House, west side of the Whitehall Marsh by her husband, Charles McCowley and William Wakefield. Cause RUM.

These are some of the early hotels. Some within recent memory are the Hall house on the east side of the canal. In 1896 it was renovated and opened with Captain T.A. Paterson as proprietor. His father had been its landlord 37 years before. In 1896 it had 35 rooms, was well furnished, heated, ventilated and kept. The charges were reasonable being but \$2.00 a day. Ten years before in 1886 it had also reopened with Landlord Gailey in charge. The space in the rear formerly occupied by the Opera House Hotel was made into a beautiful lawn.

The Opera House Hotel was in existence in 1876, when the Hall's Hotel was burned, for the patrons of that hotel were transferred to it. This account does not include the Commercial Hotel or the New Commercial Hotel in 1915, the Terry House that

became the Arlington and the New Arlington. Doubtless there are other places but these will have to wait another time for investigation.

Anyway, it cannot be said that Whitehall has never lacked places for overnight accommodations at any time.

HOTELS 1898 Whitehall Times 5/12/1898 Vol. 75 No. 10 Thursday

The Clark building on Broad Street which was recently purchased by John Davey has undergone a great transformation. It has been entirely remodeled on the interior and converted into a hotel. It is probably one of the neatest and best appointed hotels now in northern NY. It is located in the business portion of the town and has been styled the Central House. New floors have been laid in the office and bar room and the artistic hand of the paper hangers and painters is very noticeable.

The parlor, dining room and cuisine are on the second floor and are nicely arranged. The dining room floor is in hard wood highly finished. On the third floor there are 15 sleeping apartments, all richly furnished with the latest style of chamber suites. The house is lighted by electricity and there are baths and other modern conveniences. There is certainly an atmosphere of comfort and elegance about the place that must commend itself to the traveling public. There is a good livery connected with the house and Landlord Davey, assisted by his amiable wife, will no doubt reap the success he deserves.

Descriptions of Lake Champlain

**The Whitehall Times
February 13, 1975**

**Lake Champlain
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

The destiny of Skenesborough rested on the presence of Lake Champlain for its settlement, its industrial and continuing life in trade and recreation. W. H. H. Murray, responsible to a great extent for opening up the Adirondack area as a tourist attraction in the mid-1800's, declared it to be the most beautiful lake in the country.

Lake Champlain has width $\frac{1}{4}$ to approximately 13 miles; length - approximately 119 miles; broad spaces, below Crown Point; extensive views including those of the two mountain ranges that parallel the water in its valley, the Adirondacks and the Green Mountains.

Its islands are of various shapes, sizes and surfaces. Its colors are a delight. Its bays are many and deep, each with characteristics of its own. Historic events along its valley

involved the area around Skenesborough and thus the story of Whitehall is involved in the story of the lake.

The deposition of the last ice age changed the body of water from a river flowing south from the glacier to a lake enclosed by mountains with its outlet to the north. Many changes in ownership of the original Indian lands resulted with the family tribes of the Algonquins generally in Canada and the Iroquois, who had been driven from their northern lands to the south. Part of the dividing line on Lake Champlain rested on the rock in Burlington bay known as Mohawk Rock -- the point where the Mohawk Iroquois came to make peace treaties or to declare war. It was the point "beyond which no Huron (those who had driven the Iroquois out of Canada) should dare to venture without fear of death."

When the white men appeared in the area there were Indian names on the land these the newly arrived whites translated. The Iroquois name for Lake Champlain was Caniade-reguar-unte. This name was placed on Governor Pownal's map and was translated "the lake that is the gate of the country." It was the hunting and the war path of the Indians and whites alike and later the highway of travel and commerce between Quebec and New York by way of the Wood Creek and the Hudson River valleys. It was literally a gateway to the southern country. In 1759 Skenesborough was settled in this north-south path to act as a buffer between the French in the north and the British in the south where the whites had separated themselves.

The French spelling of the Indian word for lake was Kanintore. When Samuel Champlain discovered the lake the body of water was called in translation "the lake of the Iroquois" as the Richilieu was called "Rivieri aux Iroquois." This did not mean the area belonged to the Iroquois but that it was the road that leads from Quebec to the Iroquois country.

Peter S. Palmer and Walter Hill Crockett who wrote accounts of the lake suggested other names once applied to the lake but gave no sources. These included Peta-wa-bouque, "alternate land and water;" Petow-par-gow, "the great water;" and Ska ne togh ro wah na, "the largest lake."

In 1609 Samuel Champlain gave his name to this body of water after he had explored a great part of its shores. After 1766 it was sometimes called Lake Corlear after Arendt Van Corlear, a Dutchman. He was an exceedingly sensitive person who gave aid to French and Indians who invaded his area. The French invited him to visit Canada but on his way his boat capsized in Westport bay and he drowned.

The Whitehall Times
February 20, 1975

Lake Champlain
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Names along the length of Lake Champlain are associated historically with Skenesborough in events and people.

The lake begins at Wood Creek Falls which earlier had a 20 foot drop around which a portage had to be made to enter the creek. The harbor was called Hautkill by the Dutch as was one of the streams that entered the creek, but Dutch influence did not last long in our area. The Indian name for the harbor was Kah-cho-quah-na, translated "The place where dip fish."

This harbor 6 July 1777 was the scene of the final disposition of the first United States fleet. In his exuberance over the capture of Fort Ticonderoga General Burgoyne followed the five ships and many batteaux of the Americans that were evacuating the sick from the fort hospital. After destroying three of the five ships and capturing the other two, he remained in Skenesborough, having placed himself in the position of not being able to retreat for fear of "losing face." He spent three weeks at Skenesborough House overlooking the harbor where this first fleet had been built in 1776.

This harbor was also the place where the first three ships of the War of 1812 were reconditioned by Thomas McDonough and where his victorious 1814 fleet and prize ships were moored.

On some early maps and in historical accounts the narrow part of the lake was erroneously designated, as far as Crown Point, as Wood Creek. The French often called it South River. The lake has a gentle bend from the harbor but the northern end of the curve is so sharp that it was named Fiddler's Elbow, now shortened to The Elbow. Large ships of the lake boat era had to be warped around it. The whole bend has been left out of main traffic with the cutting of the Champlain Barge Canal across some of the Drowned Lands.

The land along the sides of this narrow lake part was called "The drowned Lands" on Col. Comer's map of 1700. Other names have been the Indian Ond-eri-guegon, the Narrows, and the Marsh.

Below the Elbow is Put's Rock so-called from the 1758 engagement of Israel Putnam and his small force with French Molang with his 600 French and Indians.

About two miles from the harbor is the outlet of South Bay. On Romer's map it is called South Lack; on other French maps it was labeled Grand Baise, but on almost all others it was known as South Bay. Over this water went many forces of Whites and Indians on this north south route.

Ten miles below Skenesborough were Two Rocks, two precipitous rocks with the Indian name Canagh-sione. The area around these was evidently an overnight stand for earlier forays, for one account tells of the shooting of two elk there for dinner. Below this was a section called Nigger Marsh owned by Elizabeth Skene, Philip Skene's sister, where two houses were kept open for the convenience of travelers.

This brings us to the area of Ticonderoga, where two points of land jut out toward each other. The one to the east side is Mount Independence. On its southeast side is a shallow inlet labeled the Landing from Skenesborough and a road called Road from Skenesborough. This map was made in 1776 and is included in John Trumbull's autobiography.

Between these two points of land flows the outlet of Ticonderoga which empties Lake George into Lake Champlain. Samuel Champlain's journal says he saw the waterfall at Ticonderoga and the outlet of Lake George. His journal is not specific enough to locate the site of the battleground where he assisted the Algonquins in their meeting with the Iroquois. The 125 to 150 miles he traveled along the lake shore point out that the battle took place south of Ticonderoga on the western shore which would be in Putnam,

Washington County. This very credible assumption is suggested by Crisfield Johnson in his History of Washington County.

The Whitehall Times

January 18, 1979

The Bar 1834

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

I have known, in general, where the Bar was located in Whitehall and have referred to it. This week in accessing papers for the Resource Library I unearthed a paper that locates it.

In January, 1834, Henry G. Sargent, a civil engineer, made a report on a survey and estimate for a road on the west side of Lake Champlain from Whitehall north. He was, commissioned by Peter Myers, Dennis Jones and Samuel Jillson, a central committee appointed in September, 1833, to procure such a survey.

There is a map of 1834 showing the canal and the buildings in the village at the north end. Unfortunately they are not named, but the Mr. Smith's Stone House belonged to Ezra Smith and according to the deed of Gustavus Buel's sale of the fishing tackle business, this Stone House was located in the vicinity of the Meeting Place (Formerly at the corner of Main and Clinton streets). Bradley Wright's store house doubtless was also in the vicinity of the southern end of the Bar.

I think a copy of the portion of Mr. Sargent's survey will give a picture of what the Bar was and where it ran. The paper describes the entire route surveyed to Port Henry:

"Having been employed by you to survey and estimate the probable cost of opening a road to the west side of Lake Champlain from the Village of White Hall northwardly, I have made the necessary examinations and herewith present you with a map (not included with the paper) and estimate of the same.

Previous to entering into a detailed statement of the result of my observations, it is proper to remark that the survey has not been made with a view of a definite location of the road, but simply to determine its practicability and cost of construction as nearly as can be attained by a preliminary survey.

The line of survey was commenced at Mr. Smith's Stone House on the Bar at the north end of the Village of White Hall. The Bar is a narrow strip of hard land that divides the lake from the marsh as exhibited on the map and continues several miles north of White Hall. It is generally from two to three feet above low water and nearly the same below high water and is from thirty to sixty feet in width.

It is proposed to follow this Bar to near Bradley Wright's Store House; thence the line may be continued along the Bar to the intersection of the Ridge that forms the Elbow or by crossing a narrow part of the marsh to the margin of the main land, be constructed along the edge of the latter to the same point at the Ridge. Thence crossing the Ridge which contains an elevation of about fifty feet above the lake and in ten chains in width on the base, the line again intersects the Bar and continues along the same, crossing the mouth of South Bay and intersects the main land north of the Bay near Bells Point. Thence along the edge of the Main Land crossing several bays and points of marsh to the

north bank of Cat Den Bay. The principal bays or points of marsh crossed are Carey's Camp, Lindley Hole and Cat Den.

This part of the route is four miles and fifteen chains in length from White Hall and presents greater difficulties in the cost and permanent construction of the road than will necessarily be encountered on any other part of the route."

Mr. Sargent then gave his estimates for sections of a possible road: From Smith's Stone House to hard land west of marsh opposite Wright's Store House; embankment of earth and stone including necessary outside wall to guard against water and ice 5000 cubic yards at 20 cents per yard . . . \$1000.

Thence to the Bar below the Elbow following the edge of the hard land and crossing the ridge or point of land that forms the Elbow -144 rods.

Thence to a point of hard land north of South Bay 143 1/2 chains requiring 28.413 cubic yards of embankment at 20 cents; \$5,682.60.

The Whitehall Times

May 21, 1981

Lake Champlain 1881

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The last week of April fish and game inspectors for Northern New York were here. They removed all nets from the lake. The lake is full of fine fish but fishing nets used making a living will soon depopulate the lake. As many as 40 barrels of fish have been shipped from Rouses Point in a single day. All nets have been removed and Vermont authorities will act without delay in the same removal.

The Whitehall Times

December 9, 1971

Lake Champlain 1895

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Guide books are an interesting source to seek information, or misinformation as the case may be. One 1895 Possons' Guide to Lake George, Lake Champlain and Adirondacks given to Skenesborough Museum by Ms. Marilyn Brileya has only indirect information about Whitehall but nearby areas are listed and events that affected our history are described. Lake Champlain had its fair share. Charles H. Possons gave this short history of the lake that begins in our village. Samuel de Champlain, told by the Algonquins of the big body of water, entered it on 4 July 1609. He vanquished the Iroquois at Ticonderoga (others say at Crown Point or Dresden) and gave it his name, by-passing its former names: aboriginal Indian Pe-tonbonque or "the waters which lie

between;" Iroquois Canladeri-Guaunte, or "lake that is the gateway to the country; Dutch Corlear, from a man so named from Schenectady who drowned in its waters.

The physical description Possons gives thus: From Whitehall to Fort Montgomery it is 107 1/8 miles "or the greatest length into Missisquoi Bay, 188 miles. The greatest width at the mouth of the Ausable is 12 1/8 miles; its mean width, 4 1/2 miles. Near Essex Landing it goes down 399 feet. Its elevation above sea level is 93 feet.

At the time of this publication, 1895, tourists had been "doing" Lake George and the Adirondacks but were now coming from Lake Champlain itself. Possons said it had the beauty of Lake George, a grandeur and picturesque ness of outline of an art masterpiece. Its quality improved with the study of its ever-harmonious plan of lines. It was reached by the popular tourist route via Saratoga, Lake George, and the Steamer Vermont at Fort Ticonderoga.

Following this entry to the lake are listed the places of interest to be visited. Possons places a Burgoyne blockhouse on the summit of Mount Defiance, including the drill holes in the rocks. (His men dragged up one cannon.) The ruins of Fort Ticonderoga and Fort Frederick at Crown Point are described. Here also is mentioned the English Amherst fort which Captain Philip Skene had charge of building. Here is a well which a stock company of treasure hunters cleared to find only nails and other old iron. He describes the Battle of Valcour, giving credit to Benedict Arnold for his daring exploits, and the Battle of Plattsburgh under Commodore Macdonough.

The Reindeer, a steamship familiar to Whitehall history, is mentioned as one of the ships that plied Lake Champlain at this time.

Many industries, streets and organizations have the name of this lake in their titles, including several in Whitehall.

The Whitehall Times June 8, 1972

Whitehall CHRONICLE 1907 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

One of the charming entertainments of the Village of Whitehall used to be the excursions by lake steamer or canal boat through Lake Champlain. This trip is commonplace now for the many owners of cruisers who pass through our village but gone is the thrill of these trips sponsored by various social organizations.

One such trip on 4 September 1907 is described in the Whitehall CHRONICLE, a single issue among several, besides several full years of the Whitehall TIMES that has been made available through the thoughtfulness of Eleanor Fagan. These single issues of early years are filling in the gaps in the newspaper files.

This particular excursion was sponsored by Phoenix Lodge, 96, F. & A. M. to raise funds for the Masonic Temple to be erected at the corner of Church (Broadway) and Division streets.

For his dollar admission the excursionist would have a full day sail of 140 miles over Lake Champlain on the steamer Chateaugay, a model of which is in Skenesborough

Museum. This vessel, one of the newest and finest at that time, could carry 1200 passengers.

The traveler could buy refreshments at a fair price (no intoxicating liquors to insure good order and safety) and his small children under five could go free. At Burlington, the largest city of Vermont, he would have time to see the university, beautiful on its hill; Billings Library; the government building; the beautiful cemetery; the palatial residences.

To whet the desire of Whitehallers to see more of the "fair body of water that laves New York, Vermont and Canadian shores and awaken a fuller sense of appreciation of its beauty and historical associations," the editor of the CHRONICLE quoted at length from W. H. Murray: Lake Champlain and Its Waters.

Mr. Murray dwells on the ideal conditions of recreation and enjoyment and the health which comes to those canoeists and campers who love the outdoor life and world. He extols the natural scenery of highest order and the bays alive with historic memories. He lists the chasm, gorge, mountains and the many islands.

For those of us who live now within touch of this Great National Park, as Murray calls it, he describes the glories that we take as commonplace because of our nearness to it, though, there must be a subconscious awareness of the beauty for on a recent trip to Norway two Whitehallers, amid the spectacular scenes of that country, were constantly saying: That looks like the block mountain of Skene; that resembles the mountains around Lake George; Bergen is like Elizabethtown, in a hollow surrounded by mountains; this road with its trees and rocks resembles the one leading to Saranac Lake; South Bay resembles a fjord as it wanders from the mountains.

A trip through Lake Champlain still has these beauties of bay, mountain and shore to see, even if stops were not made at Cold Springs, Benson and Orwell.

The Whitehall Times **July 8, 1976**

Scenic Waters of Lake Champlain **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

How long ago has it been since you looked up South Bay from the bridge to really see the mountains on each side closing in as do the mountains along Norwegian fiords — or watched the mountains as you come around the end of Palmerton Range along Route 149? Have you had an opportunity to go down the lake to see the land and water much as the visiting Indians, the white transients and Philip Skene must have seen them?

Recently a long time wish was granted when Mrs. Gladys Juckett and Dorothy and Ronald LaRose took me from the launching dock down South Bay under the railroad bridge into Lake Champlain, then up East bay into the Poultney River.

With no buildings in sight it is easy to imagine you are seeing what those early people saw — the Champlain clay colored water, the lushness of the trees along the banks, the rock cliffs ending steeply in the water. Put's Rock shows that the general could easily have hidden his few soldiers there to ambush the French and Indians in 1758. The anticlines along East Bay give evidence of nature's forces that pressed the earth's

surface into folds. The colored layers of the cliffs prove that metamorphic rocks were formed with the erosion of the volcanic upheavals; the glimpses of cleared land along the river suggest the intervals along which the early people settled.

Today the fishermen and the travelers in cruisers see these sights that earlier Whitehallers saw when they went on picnics up South Bay to the Diameter where they cooled melons and drinks in the cold stream there or were pushed on barges down Lake Champlain for a day's outing at the ruins of Fort Frederick or Fort Ticonderoga.

The purpose of this present-day trip was to search out a cemetery that lies on the right bank of the Poultney River. Thirty years ago its stones stood in orderly rows in memory of people who lived in the vicinity. Today buried under a mass of wild roses and interlaced with cow paths, the stones are flat and broken and, difficult to uncover. Enough of some was accessible to learn that the plot was a private family cemetery overlooking the Poultney, a quiet peaceful spot.

The names of the families are Collins, Watkins and Tupper. The earliest burial found was that of Miles Tupper in 1829, aged 18. The next was Caroline Collins in 1838, followed by Susanah Chilson Collins in 1839. One stone was decorated with a verse so prevalent in the early part of the 19th century.

This is one more cemetery to be placed on the maps of Whitehall for the continuing resources research for Washington County. Sentimentally it is good to know that, despite the condition of the markers, the spot still is a beautiful one for those who were buried there so long ago.

Libraries

The Whitehall Times June 23, 1988

Whitehall CHRONICLE 1870's Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Academy Library:

In May 1870 an inquiring person around town asked why the libraries of the old Academy and that of the Y.M.C.A. were housed in a farm house outside the village. Investigation found that in 1865 when the Academy was sold by mortgage foreclosure. A. C. Cooke purchased it and was in possession of the library and laboratory equipment. He took the materials to his farm, then on the site of the present Methodist Church. When the Y.M.C.A. was organized the collection was sent there with the books in a suitable bookcase. When these rooms were given up, R. C. Cook took possession of them until the Opera House was ready to receive them. However the Opera House was not ready at that time but the new school was. This would make the statement that the library and laboratory equipment of the Academy went to the new high school.

The Whitehall Times
February 1, 1979

Libraries 1879
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Hiram Dickenson and E. J. Belden were establishing a circulating library in Whitehall. The books were to be loaned from Baldwin and Bascom's insurance office over the Merchants National bank. The books were purchased and comprised of standard works of the day. A reasonable price per day was to be charged.

The Whitehall Times
November 16, 1972

"First"
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Labeling something as a "first" is a tendency for any person, be he collector, writer, researcher. Louis Jones of Cooperstown Farmer's Museum inveighed against this practice in historical accounts.

Church histories of Whitehall tell of libraries established in their rooms for Sunday school members, the library of the Episcopal in 1836 being an example. But when was the first village or school library set up in Whitehall? The Whitehall academy on Williams Street had a library that was transferred to the Union School when it was established in 1866, and doubtless the earlier academy on Academy (Division) Street set up in March, 1885, with the consent of both the village and the school.

Over the J. H. Sullivan and Co. store at Saunders and Canal streets, according to their advertisement, a room was designed as a village library. The Union School gave books, cases, a desk and chairs which were newly painted and grained by volunteers. One thousand books were transferred to the shelves and an appeal made to the public for contributions of volumes.

The library was a subscription one as consent was sought to receive the "Alvord Library" of 100 volumes for the shelves. Publishing companies donated books, Ivison, Balkeman, Taylor and company sent 20 volumes, among them an atlas of the United States. A. S. Barnes and Company gave 15 volumes of miscellaneous works with a popular history of the United States, Carrington's Battles of the American Revolution, and Memoirs of President Garfield. Sheldon and company sent 12 new volumes.

Individuals saw that the library received some good reading. Professor Miller contributed 30 volumes of new books with 11 volumes of Washington Irving's works, six volumes of Miss Yonge's Histories in England, France and Rome, Macaulay's five volume history of England and three volumes of Macaulay's Essays.

This all seems serious reading but O. A. Manville supplied the lack of lightness by donating 50 volumes of new fiction. Other villagers contributed: Village President E. A. Martin, druggist J. R. Broughton, Baptist Rev. M. C. Lockwood and Jeremiah Adams.

Placing books on the shelves is the smallest bit of library work. Six weeks later these 1200 books plus several hundred duplicates had been cataloged sufficiently to allow borrowing on a regular basis and the library was opened to the public on Thursdays 3-4:30 p.m. -and Saturdays 11-12.

In the meantime early readers had borrowed some volumes and, as usual habit, had not returned them. Books, like umbrellas, seem expendable. The library guardians asked that people return their selections with the pointed plea "that others may also read" and with the emphasis that a set of books is valueless if some of its parts are missing.

It was noted "not a few valuable sets are broken and useless till the wandering parts can be found." It was further noted that the board of education had these books in trust and it was their duty to insist on their return. The plea ended on the diplomatic note we "trust that all who have books will return them."

How long did this library survive? Two years later the local Y.M.C.A. established as large a library in their rooms in the building on the site just north of the present Knights of Columbus building. Did this local library finally find its way to the old red building on Williams street?

The Whitehall Independent March 21, 1984

Library 1884 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

O. A. Manville, a druggist started a new and very large circulating library.

The Whitehall Times December 11, 1986

A Library in 1885 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A hundred years ago establishing a library was an affair of cooperation among interested citizens. Several such collections were made over the years. Such a one was made in 1885.

The room chosen was over the Sullivan and Company's store in the Pippo building. It was furnished with bookcases, desks and chairs for the village library. The desks moved from the Union School were neatly painted and grained to give the needed shelf room.

Over 1,000 books were collected from various sources and placed on the shelves. They were ready to be cataloged. At that time this process was a laborious one for the librarian. There was no central place where this service was provided complete with cards.

A call went out for books. "Now is the time to send whatever works you may be willing to contribute to the library." Perhaps this is where the idea was gained that all unwanted books could be given to the library. This idea is not altogether useless for many volumes of value come to light.

An effort was being made to secure the "Alvord Library," evidently sold in a series to subscribers as many such had consented to send their copies to the library. This would add 100 volumes to the collection.

Another source of books was publishing companies. Messrs. Ivison, Blakeman, Taylor and Company sent about 20 volumes, among them a fine atlas of the United States. A. S. Barnes and Co. forwarded a lot of 15 volumes of miscellaneous books. A popular history, U. S. Carrington's Battles of the American Revolution and a memoir of President Garfield was among them.

The principal of the Union School, Professor Miller, contributed 30 volumes of new books. Among these were a set of 11 volumes of Washington Irving; Miss Young's history on England, France, Rome and others, six volumes in all; Macauley's England in five volumes; and light volumes of Macauley's Essays. Evidently the high school had increased its collection of books from the time it had received the library of the second Whitehall Academy when it was dissolved so that it could give some away.

What a difference there is in the concept of a library today 100 years later. The school library with its fine collection of books has all the other attributes to add to youth's training in microfilm, slides, magazines, computers, and other materials. It evolved in formal collection from the classroom libraries in the back of the rooms of Miss Waite and Miss Layden at Central building. The village library has grown from collections of donated books to it services in association with the Southern Adirondack Library System. Both are ready to serve youth and adults alike.

The Whitehall Times **April 2, 1987**

Whitehall in 1887 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

The railroad Y.M.C.A. was very active one hundred years ago in its building on Canal Street. Its building, north of the present Knights of Columbus building, burned in 1911, and was replaced by the K. of C. home.

In 1887 the members, believing that a good library was one of the requirements of success in any association established a circulating library in its rooms. One of the first methods of obtaining books for its collection was to have an entertainment, admission to which would be a good book. Superintendent C. D. Hammond furnished a large

bookcase. The employees of the D & H along the line favored the project. The library soon had 150 volumes. House cleaners had been urged to send their books.

The Whitehall Independent **March 11, 1987**

Whitehall Civic Improvement League **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Members of the Civic League continued to support the Whitehall Free Library with projects such as card parties, subscriptions, and volunteer labor while still holding their meetings in its rooms. In October 1911 a report was made to the League that the village trustees were attempting to gain control of land north of the bridge and the League was requested to cooperate in securing the Historical Building where the library would have rooms. Nothing was reported in the minutes until May 19, 1924 when the minutes read that the Civic League held its meeting in the new library for the first time.

This must have meant the library that was located on the second floor of the village building until it was transferred in 1953 to the present Griswold Library given to the village. During this period Miss Bessie Buel and Mrs. Lorraine Dannehy were librarians. Evidently the Whitehall Free Library had become an entity of its own. The Civic League held its meetings here for some years before meeting in other public places and in homes of its members.

At the April 1909 meeting ten members were chosen for the Library Committee. Only members of the Civic League could be trustees but everyone could use the library. These first trustees were the Mesdames, W. G. C. Wood, B. H. Bascom, J. Q. Edwards, O. A. Dennis, C. J. Baldwin, F. L. Andrews, Jack Israel, George Noyes, and the Misses Julia Bascom and Lulu Lotrace. Later when a State Inspector visited the library he was astonished that only one woman had accomplished such an institution and suggested a man should be on the board. Men had been given an honorary membership in the first year.

By June 1909 the shelves had been installed in the library, the catalog completed, books in order, and Esther Adams hired as a librarian. To separate the books on the shelves in divisions it was suggested that covered bricks be used June 7 a date for a Library Day be observed, the third Sunday in June.

In November 1919 Mrs. Brown of the State Library Association came to view the library. By this time there were 504 books and many magazine subscriptions.

She suggested a larger supply of children's books, catering to special interests such as agriculture and ethnic groups of the town, and that the two newspapers and cuttings of the town events would be on file. (If only this had happened what a resource of material would be on hand.) It seems that games were provided for the library hours and it was now evident that special hours and a separate room be restricted for use when the library was not open.

In October the Whitehall Free Library had a State Charter, a constitution had been drawn up and read, and all reports of the library were given for publication in the two

newspapers. On 23 November 1909 it was voted that all Civic League meetings would be held thereafter in the library instead of Williams Street School.

Members met there until they transferred later to the Community Association rooms.

The Whitehall Independent

March 4, 1987

1909, Civic Improvement League and the Library

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

During the first year of its existence, 1909, the Civil League Board was informed of the work of the Y.M.C.A... This organization offered its library as a nucleus for a public library. Members of the Civic League began action on such an institution. At this time other villages were accepting the generosity of Andrew Carnegie for library buildings but the Whitehall ladies rejected that path. They wrote a newspaper article to the two papers of Whitehall, the Times and the Chronicle, listing the needs for and the benefits of such an institution in Whitehall. With the article they included a coupon for an expression of opinion of the taxpayers to be handed in.

In March a standing vote was taken on the favorable results of this vote. Possible sites had already been examined; Miller's store, the Shantee (Log Cabin), and Sullivan's rooms, but the ladies settled on the basement of Mrs. Gertrude Adams in a brick building on the corner of Wilson Alley and Williams Street with rent at \$6. The building burned some: years ago.

The members of the league contributed furniture and at least one good book. Mr. Lowenstein of the Champlain Silk Mills was solicited for some book cases which he donated. The ladies also sewed rags for a rug.

In April the Civic League made a request to the village Trustees for \$300 to assist with the formation and maintenance of the library. Their reception was gratifying but they were requested to ask for an amount in January so that the sum could become an established part of the budget. The village trustees held a special meeting to hear the request. They also informed the Civic League that if the town would make a like contribution the library would be called the Whitehall Public Library; if not it would be called the Whitehall Free Library the town did not appropriate the \$300 at that time and so the latter name was used. On the refusal of the town to grant money, it was not in the budget at that time, a subscription paper was circulated and the citizens subscribed much more than the amount asked for.

Miscellaneous

The Whitehall Times
September 22, 1977

Collectibles in Whitehall **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

A collectible is any item that takes one's fancy. For the ordinary person it usually is something that is fairly scarce, for search is part of the fun; something the price of which fits one's pocket-book, for it is heartbreaking to lose a possible addition to a collection because of its high price.

A collectible can be large or small, decorative or ugly, knick knack or utilitarian. It can be glass, bottles, leather, metal, wood, paper and tin.

Some collectibles are items that have the name of Whitehall on them. During the Victorian Era that spilled over into the 20th Century, souvenir items where the vogue. Whitehall merchants secured gold rimmed six-inch plates with painted flowers or fruits with gold lettering, "Whitehall, N.Y."

Then there were the china knick knacks with Whitehall pictures. As with post cards current there, the pictures were sent to Germany where the items were produced — small pitchers and different sized vases. Among the pictures were the armory, a view of Skene Mountain, and the harbor which was labeled the canal. One former merchant reported he had a trunk full of these when he went Out of business.

Red enamel on the top of pressed wine glasses sold souvenirs of Whitehall. A carnival glass cup with Whitehall written across the top, found in a South Glens Falls antique shop, makes one wonder if there is a whole tea set. A gold trimmed flower bedecked and covered milk glass dish could have been a pin holder on milady's dresser. A cereal bowl with a picture of a dog found in Putnam Station advertised a Whitehall merchant. Glass paper weights featured the Champlain Silk Mills.

Many people in Whitehall are collecting such items. Some have milk bottles with the dairy names; some have bottles with the names of merchants. There are spoons, post cards, rocks of the area, advertisements. Some of each are in Skenesborough Museum but many more can be added to make the collection complete.

Collectibles are fun to acquire. The use of leisure time in searching out the desired article, the excitement when an especially rare one is found, the possible increase in value, and above all the pride of showing off one's collection with the story of each "find" makes collecting collectibles worth while.

The Whitehall Times
February 8, 1979

Changes in Living
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Someone a hundred years ago undertook to compare ways of life before then with their present. Some of these practices many of us can remember.

Food is always a subject of interest. Many people today, young and middle aged, eat no breakfast, drinking a cup of coffee only for the day ahead. In days past there were three meals a day. Breakfast in winter was salted ham and hot cakes. New Orleans molasses, very black and thin, was the common "sweetin" ' for buckwheat cakes. Refined molasses was scarce. In early teaching days I remember my astonishment when I saw my landlord eat a regular breakfast of, pork chops and pie — always pie for breakfast.

Bread was made at home, the regular item, not just for a treat. Coffee was ground afresh each, morning. The sound of the coffee grinder and the penetrating odor of the drink preceded the morning meal — experiences drinkers of instant coffee do not have.

Meals were heavy — pumpkin pie, codfish cakes along with salt salmon, pork and beans, corn bread, succotash. More meat, more grease, more hot bread, more heavy dishes, and more liquor at meals, summer and winter. Little importance was given to the necessity for good digestion or a period of rest afterwards. The diet was the same and surcharged with grease.

Thus when spring arrived, "spring fever" and biliousness came also and doctors prescribed a blue-mass pill, a dose of calomel, sulphur and molasses, or pin-cherry-black. Children were given castor oil, rhubarb and senna leaves. It was a day of strong medicine. The strong recovered, the weak died, and the mediums suffered.

People did not live as long then, and health was not as good as it is today. Dyspeptics and consumptives were common. Disease and death were alluded to as "dispensations of Providence." Tombstones had larger epitaphs and more verbosity engraved upon them. Coffins were plain; burial caskets unknown. Young people deemed it a privilege to sit up nights with, the "corpse before burial. In many cases it was a welcome diversion.

Country dry goods stores renewed their stock from the city twice a year. The arrival of "new goods" created a sensation. Stores were filled for two to three days until all the women in the village had seen the new styles. It isn't too long ago when even village people bought flour, sugar and crackers by the barrel.

Business letters were more voluminous and formal than now and written in a precise, round hand.

Lightning rods had made their use. Many opposed them on the ground that they were insult to Deity and that it was an interference with the works and will of Providence.

Bank bills were of state banks and the farther West their locality the shakier they were.

Some household hints were: Place camphor gum with your silver to keep it bright; tobacco tea will kill worms in flower pots (not too long ago people were blowing

cigarette smoke on plants for the same reason); vinegar will remove lime from carpets; rats and mice avoid chloride, of lime.

And so it went "in the good old days".

The Whitehall Times **October 12 1986**

Odds and Ends **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**



Old Canal Wall at Riverside Park (Photo #01)



Cannon at the Armory (Photo #02)

Photos by K. Bartholomew 2007

It is always a source of satisfaction to have readers of this column offer corrections or give additional material on a subject. Experience teaches that other sources when uncovered may refute what once was believed to be the final word. Good examples are the many "facts" about Philip Skene that were copied for so long and still are.

The cannon on the armory lawn were given to the Howitzer club and are the property of that club, not of the armory. The early 60's found the wooden frames badly weathered and the club caused concrete forms to be made. The cannon now rest on a firm base. They are symbols of Skenesborough's heritage.

Watch for the announcement that the old canal has been put on the National Register. In the village the bed has been filled in but the old wall of a section is seen as a wall of Riverside Park. The stone structure, constructed by Melancthon Wheeler in 1819, is still a sturdy formation. Parts of the canal can be seen in the fields south of the village with trees outlining the past on the side.

The Historical Society of Whitehall voted to provide an additional 50 copies of the "Introduction to Historic Resources in Washington County, New York." The 5000 copies printed by the county are nearly all sold. These left will be the last to be sold by the Historical society. Besides by members of the society, the greater number of the books was sold from Tony's Newsroom, Gerri's Newsroom, The Whitehall Times, Marion's dress shop and Macleod's.

The National Survey of Washington County is continuing. This consists of a record of structures over 50 years old in each town with some history of it and a brief

notation of its architectural features. This includes pictures of the buildings and means many interviews of the owners. Mrs. Sally Brillon of the Washington County Planning Board, who directed the "Introduction", is carrying out the project with the assistance of town historians and many volunteers. The Historical Society is sponsoring this project in Skenesborough.

Besides the individual structures, maps are being prepared. An example is one of cemeteries, abandoned, destroyed sites, and present. Recently this column had a list of such in Skenesborough. Readers furnished other site locations not in any available lists. There will be a map for churches, schools, quarries, rock formations, etc. Assistance is asked for any information on homes and buildings.

Among the "lost" mansions of Skenesborough is that of Cook's mansion on the Granville road. All of the other mansions have been pictured but I have been unable to locate a picture of this mansion that was in existence not too long ago

The Whitehall Times **May 10, 1973**

May 1775 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Tomorrow, May 11, will be the 198th anniversary of the taking of the ship LIBERTY, renamed from KATHERINE in honor of Philip Skene's wife. This was effected by sailors and marines under the direction of Captains Brown and Sloan whom Benedict Arnold had sent to Skenesborough to finish the work intended for the Green Mountain Boys. The ship was taken down Lake Champlain and fitted out as a warship. Thus it became the first armed war ship of the United States Navy.

On May 9, 1775, occurred the capture of Skenesborough by the Green Mountain Boys under Captain Samuel Herrick. This capture took place during daylight hours. Another account reports that Captain Barnes from Salem arrived at dusk with another force for the same purpose. This brought the first military action of revolutionary nature into New York State and our community.

Perhaps many saw the account in the POST STAR May 3 that repeated the legends. In some respects true and in most false, even to the date of the capture, that are shallowly researched and written up sensationally to the discredit of Whitehall. The Town Historian sent a letter to the editor of that paper attempting to refute the implications.

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James Lonergan of Mount Defiance gave a stirring talk before the Veterans of the Big "T" on that mountain Sunday, May 6. In giving a short history of the area and lauding our beautiful scenery, he gave to Skenesborough and so Whitehall its rightful place in the Revolutionary story that so many historians omit, for here it was that the first ships of the United States Navy were constructed for the fleet that saw action in Valcour - action that gave to us our United States.

XXX

The Whitehall Independent

September 7, 1983

Events From mid-1770's to 1922

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Someone took time to record events in Whitehall on dates from mid-1770's to 1922. These bits of local history were gleaned for the month of September by collecting the dates by decades and months.

10/1781 British Commissioners met New Hampshire Grants at Skenesborough to arrive at some agreement for joining together. Unsuccessful attempt.

14/1777 Burgoyne ordered British troops to evacuate Skenesborough.

6/1814 Root's Hebron Regiment of Militia embarked at Whitehall in two sloops for Plattsburgh to aid Macomb with only six effective muskets in the whole regiment!

10/1833 Delegates from Clinton, Essex, Washington Counties met at the Clinton House in Whitehall to deliberate the opening of a road on the west side of Lake Champlain.

10/1841 The recently organized Lodge I.O.O.F. first occupied their new rooms in the John G. Boyce Building.

19/1844 The Democratic Congressional Convention at Whitehall called at Anglo Saxon Hotel was postponed to 15 October for lack of delegates.

25/1847 A law passed authorizing people to vote on proposition of dividing the village into three wards, each ward to select two trustees annually.

14/1863 A slate slab sidewalk was completed from the Old National Bank to Dayton's corner (Bellamy Street), the first of its kind in Whitehall

19/1867 Bishop McClusky deeded to the village land where the Catholic Church stood at corner of Saunders and Church streets.

27/1867 The cornerstone of Our Lady of Angels was laid.

27/1865 William P. Potter entered the U. S. Naval Academy.

17/1873 Some persons broke into the lockup. A reward was offered.

25/1874 Barnum's Circus exhibited on the "depot meadows".

25/1875 Herbert Bros, opened a slate quarry on Hatch Hill.

4/1883 Whitehall Lumber Company commenced a new mill.

26/1905 Ground was broken for Flee-man Knitting Mill on the Bar. This was afterwards known as the Staso Paint Company which began business 1 October, 1906.

7/1916 An informal meeting was held at Dennis's office to talk of advisability of organizing a savings and loan.

28/1918 The campaign for the 4th Liberty Loan opened.

25/1922 The new State Road to Fair Haven was opened.

The Whitehall Times
July 25, 1974

Our Nations Flags During 1775 to 1777
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The early American settlers used the British flag as a standard for about two centuries. It was red with a canton composed of the Union Jack. The Union Jack consists of the crosses of St. George and St. Andrew.

On 2 January 1776, the Grand Union flag was raised at Cambridge, Mass., with George Washington present at the ceremony. The Grand Union flag consists of seven red stripes and six white stripes with the Union Jack in its canton. This is the flag which Benedict Arnold flew on the ships of the first United States Navy at the Battle of Valcour and which he left flying when he had to abandon some of them afire in Onion creek. Such a flag is among those flown daily at Skenesborough Museum.

The Stars and Stripes came into being 14 June 1777 when Congress resolved "that the flag of the United States be 13 stripes alternately red and white, and that the union be 13 stars in a blue field representing a new constellation."

Early in our history the flag was used mainly by the Navy. The first recognition of the Stars and Stripes by a foreign country occurred 14 February 1778 when John Paul Jones was saluted by French Admiral LaMotte Piquet in Queberon Bay, France. This recognition is immortalized in an oil painting by Edward Moran. A copy is among the pictures of the Navy series "Our Navy in Action" recently presented to Skenesborough Museum.

The Whitehall Times
January 11, 1973

Benedict Arnold's Fleet
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Have you looked at the framed piece of wood in the National Commercial Bank? The plaque reads "Part of oak rib of one of the last three vessels of Benedict Arnold's war fleet, which were scuttled in Skenesborough Harbor (Whitehall) July 7, 1777. Parts of these wooden vessels, together with several cannon and other munitions of warfare, were removed by the Atlantic Gulf and Pacific Company during the summer of 1910 while dredging the Barge Canal entrance to Lake Champlain."

Five ships of Arnold's fleet took part in this battle of Skenesborough. The three destroyed there at that time were sloop Enterprise which was burned, and the schooner Revenge and galley Gates which were blown up and burned. The other two were captured and were in the service of the British for some time. These were galley Trumbull and schooner Liberty, the latter the first armed vessel in the United States Navy.

The Whitehall Times
September 23, 1976

War of 1812
September 1876
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

An odd bit — the Battle of Lake Champlain, September 11, 1812, was observed in the village (but little was done for the national centennial to observe the building of the first naval fleet in our harbor in 1776) with 7,000 people, eight bands, fire company and contests.

The Whitehall Times
January 6, 1983

War of 1812 Ships
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

From many sources we learn that the story of the ships of the War of 1812 in East Bay has spread over the United States, south to Florida and west to California. Capping the experience is the telephone call received from London from a diver who wishes to participate in next year's archeological diving if possible. Another writer tells of a renewed interest in life's affairs when he read the story, and the Kiwanis of Ticonderoga would like the history of these ships. All inquirers were surprised to learn that Whitehallers knew of the existence of the ships that need to be protected from amateurish exploration.

The fifth **U.S. Ticonderoga, CG47**, will be commissioned 22 January 1983 at Ingalls Shipbuilding, West Bank Facility, Pascagoula, Miss. This town and village historian has received an invitation to be present at the commissioning and the reception afterwards from the captain, officers and crew. It will be remembered that Skenesborough Museum sent a plaque with a piece of the first Ticonderoga and a nail to the christening of this ship last spring, presented for Whitehall by the president of the Ticonderoga Chamber of Commerce and the village mayor.

The Whitehall Times
August 8, 1984

Weddings in the "Old Times"
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Home weddings were different from the usual stylized church ones. This was the case when Florence S. Dale of Poultney Street was married to Edward Clark of Poultney. Florence was the daughter of Frederick S. Dale who brought the silk industry to Whitehall. She had lived in Meyers Castle on West Hill when her father operated the silk mill and was used to ostentation.

Like the Terrytown boys and their social club, the young ladies of the community formed such a club called the Theta Delta Club. Unlike the "Boys", however, their aim was to assist the first member to "embark on the sea of matrimony with every aid in their power."

Miss Dale was the first to marry. It followed that the group attended the bride on the eve of her wedding and for several days before in decorating the large parlors of her parents with festoons of evergreen, palms, potted plants, ferns and flowers.

At the end of the south parlor they erected an enclosure to be used for the ceremony. At the top was placed a large white bell of white flowers and on the back a ground of evergreens with the initials "D. C." also in white flowers. A white cord and tassel marked the entrance. From the gas fixtures in the center of the room to its corners were ropes of evergreen, as well as along the stair railing. Plants and flowers around the room added to the festive look.

A different musical during the ceremony was the singing of the entire musical score of the "Bridal Chorus" from Wagner's "Lohengrin". This was followed by the music of the Episcopal Church boys' choir under the direction of L. D. Tefft and Herman Sullivan the accompanist. The era in which this wedding took place can be recognized by the names of the boys in the choir: Harry Dalton, Kenneth Newcomb, Timothy Inglee, Buell Ames, William Kelly, and David Inglee.

Fifty guests attended the wedding. The bridesmaids were four in number besides the maid of honor: Clara Bascom, Alena Manville, Katherine Burdett and Libbie Carr. The maid of honor was Lulu Dale. The bride carried a large bouquet of white roses which was made up of five separate bouquets containing emblems that were to show the fortunes of the bridesmaids. (Were all married next?) Master Dalton then sang DeKoven's "O! Promise Me" and after congratulations a well prepared and well served collation was served in the dining room decorated with white and gold ribbons and flowers.

Usually the account of a wedding ended with a long list of the wedding gifts to the couple with the names of the donors. They were omitted in this account or perhaps the scrapbook maker ran out of space or time.

The Whitehall Times
January 11, 1979

Marriages & Obituaries 1870's – 1920's
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Ways of expression and description change with generations. What was quite ordinary at one time becomes quaint at another. These are some wordings I have culled from a scrapbook of obituaries and marriages given to the Historical Society by Mrs. Ursula Pray. The entries span years between the 1870's and 1920's.

A beautiful and accomplished young lady of well-to-do parentage was quietly and secretly married.

Both of the young couple were popular and held in high esteem by all their friends and all wish them the greatest' success in life.

She possessed an active mind, was well informed and always genial and entertaining in conversation.

Seemingly she was stricken from the roll of the living when in the height of her usefulness.

No expense was spared to speed her recovery.

We often wonder why it is that, the dread Angel of Death in his baleful flight of destruction should so ruthlessly cut down with his sword the best fruits.

To his noble manly qualities he added a genial nature and boyish sweetness that endeared him to all who knew him.

A quiet and beautiful matrimonial was performed when the couple was united in holy wedlock.

Too much cannot be said in praise of his loving companion who was his constant attendant in ministering to all his wants and wishes.

The good work in our cemetery on Monday last 14 teams besides and number of hand laborers put a beautiful gravel road through the yard. What can we do for our dear friends that are gone but to beautify their lasting resting place? What can give us more pleasure than to work and plan for them?

During the long residence here the deceased was prominent here because of his business standing, his interest in public affairs, his force and activity, stalwart physical characteristics, and genial disposition in social affairs.

She had been active in good works. Her life reflected the Christian spirit and teachings. She reared a large family – all good citizens and greatly respected in the community.

For some hours before the bell rang for the nuptial Mass, friends of the popular couple had been combining nature's fair products of the woods and floral gardens into arches and forms of adornment within the sanctuary,

There was much jollification at the house, but it was only a primer compared with what followed. Friends of the newly wedded couple determined to give them a send off that would go down in history. Consequently when they came out of the house they found a motley combination of quadrupeds and vehicles waiting to give them the most spectacular transportation possible through the streets to the station. Into the dump truck

climbed the smiling couple. The entire vehicle had been rimmed. Attached to it were one horse and two cadaverous Line mules, a la tandem.

The bride has lived around Java for several, years and her splendid disposition has won for her the love of all those who know her and no doubt she will make an ideal housewife and helpmate to the groom.

The newly wedded young couple is socially prominent throughout this section and their friends in the various towns hope that they may realize in the fullest measure the happiness of domestic tranquility.

At ten o'clock a sumptuous wedding supper was served the couple were the recipients of a large number of beautiful and costly gifts, which alone speak of the high esteem in which they are held by their friends.

The clergyman, with elegance of manner and language which gave evidence of his proficiency in that line of work, uttered the words of that most significant, impressive and solemn service which unites in bonds indissoluble the hearts and fortunes of man and woman.

The Whitehall Times June 25, 1981

June 1881 Obituary of John Brown Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In the obituary of John Brown, 1813-1881, is additional information of personnel of lake boats. Mr. Brown was commander of sloop Industry and pilot at times on Saranac, Francis Saultus, Canada, America, Montreal and United States. He married Lucinda Burt and their daughter was N.Z. Baker.

The Whitehall Independent August 31, 1978

Anniversary Dates Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A collector of some years ago wrote down Whitehall events in day by day entries. Here are some anniversaries:

In April, 1803, the congregational rector, Rev. Cornelius Jones, died, he was the pastor of the White Church and was buried in the old Bartholomew cemetery, the one the local DAR has had cleaned.

In May, 1803, Daniel Lyon was born. He became a noted captain on Lake Champlain steamers.

In December, 1823, William Hannas and Charity Benjamin, daughter of Joseph Drake Benjamin, were married. Their home is the 1827 building of the Barkleys on Broadway.

In December, 1823, there was a public meeting to express sympathy and raise funds for the Greeks in their struggle for Independence.

In the same month a Thanksgiving service was held in the school house, the Academy on Division Street. A service for the next Sabbath was planned for the same place.

The first burial in Boardman Cemetery took place with that of Nancy Boardman. The cemetery was formally opened four months later in June, 1853.

In June, 1853, an act was passed by the village authorizing a sum not to exceed \$20,000 for the purpose of improving the water system.

Many of our local leaders were immigrants. In April, 1853, William B. Inglee came to Whitehall from Machias, Maine. In July, Dr. A. J. Long settled here and opened his office.

The George Brett Hose Company No. 2 was organized in January, 1878, and Robert H. Cook was appointed Receiver of the Whitehall Transportation in July.

In November, 1878, the new fire alarm bell in the village building was dedicated with a great celebration.

In December, 1878, a village ordinance forbade the pitching of quoits in the streets.

The Whitehall Independent July 20, 1988

How Not and How to Choose a Mate Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A woman with a sudden nervous gait - whose feet turn in - when on a trot she interferes with both feet, as well as interferes with everybody's bizziness — whose countenance looks as if she washes it every morning with vinegar or ile of vitrol - her nose looks as if mortification had sot in from too much snuff taking; who looks on the beast man as a dog does on a piece of meat, only good to be torn to pieces and then devoured. Boys, if in the course of human events such a conglomerate human mass gets after you, your goose is cooked. If you get wedded to a female of this sort you want to hunt up the most approved method of washing dishes, tending baby and doing a general assortment of household duties, for such a woman will be off attending women's nite conventions, and kicking up a mess generally until Lucifer arrives with his ferry boots to tow her across the river Styxz.

Boys, having told you the wrong gait, let me tell you the right one. If the promenader steps off with a gentle movement with the lower extremities, her toes turned out just sufficiently to fit between her feet, when standing still, a five inch piece of pie, as she steps off redolent with smiles, as if she thought the world was made for all human beings and it was a duty we owe each other to shed as much sunshine about us as the maker of nature had endowed us with word for all the afflicted and needy, a proper respect for the aged; with a heart so tender she would rather step into the gutter than tread

upon a worm that was crawling in her path; with her habiliments neat but not gaudy; the roses on her cheeks sparkling as if they were color and warranted to wash bowing as polite to the thread-bare passer-by as to the queen in silks. Boys, when you see such a treasure, mark my words, her price is above roobies and fine gold. My advice is get her if you can, with such a woman your house will be paradise. Every button will be in its place; your pudding free from nite cap strings and waste hair. Instead of your wife being off attending conventions and others; she will settle down to her legitimate bizziness in building a hearthstone that will make the mouth of all henpeck husbands water like a thunderstorm in Jewly.

Get such a wife, and after business hours go home to her and not pass your time hanging about corners and making a confounded beast of yourself generally.

The Whitehall Independent **April 24, 1980**

When Did They Die? **85 Years Plus** **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Obituaries are interesting reading when read as a source of information on industries and events of earlier days. It would seem that women are the hardier of the sexes as their numbers reaching the 85-plus outnumber males.

These entries, taken at random from .Scrapbook 21 of the late Arthur Gordon, point out the information, or lack of it, that can be entered in an obituary.

Mrs. Elmira Latour Bebo, 94, was the widow of Dennis Bebo, a Civil War veteran. Born in Sorel, Canada, she came to Whitehall in 1862. She and her husband conducted a business on Canal Street between the old Gaylord Building which stood on the south corner of Clinton Avenue and Canal Street in the present roadway north of Stiles Meeting Place and owned a secondhand store on North Main streets.

Mrs. J. Sanford Potter, 88, was Miss Ann Webster who came to Whitehall from Pittsburgh. She attended Fort Edward Collegiate Institute at a time after the demise of the second Whitehall Academy on Williams Street. She lived at the Terrace on Skene Mountain where were located the Potter brother mansions.

Mrs. Ann O'Brien Walsh, 89, came from Ireland via Granville. Her first husband was John Barrett. They were the parents of Mrs. Henry Neddo. Her second husband was Peter Walsh.

Mrs. Mary Mulholland Duncan, 89, was a Whitehall girl. She was the mother of nine children. She and husband James lived near the southern end of Cliff Street.

Mrs. Celestia Mitchell DeKalb, 86, was a Whitehall girl. She attended Whitehall Academy. She became a charter member of the Whitehall Grange, the Civic Improvement League and the Rural Charity Club. She was a correspondent of The Whitehall Times under editors Franklin Fishier, Milo C. Reynolds and Edward F. Roche. Her daughter, Mary DeKalb, taught in Whitehall High School.

Joseph Brown, 94, came to Whitehall from Ireland via, Granville. He followed his father in farming, living on his own farm on the Whitehall-Poultney road for 67 years. His wife was Anna Powers.

Mrs. Rebecca Ferguson Bates, 87, was a resident of Whitehall for 70 years. She was the widow of Charles Bates, a prominent Episcopalian worker and an operator of hotels in and around Whitehall.

Mrs. Rose Raino Hurtubis, 87, came to Whitehall from Essex, N.Y., at seven years of age. She attended the old Bell School at corner of Blount and Lamb streets.

Mrs. Mary Aiken Ryon, 86, was the widow of Franklin C. Ryon. They lived on Canal Street near his coal yard, which was north of the firehouse before that building was moved to its present site in 1933.

Mrs. Margaret Mooney McCarthy, 87, was the widow of John McCarthy. She came from St. Antonie, Canada. She was a charter member of the Whitehall Democratic club. Her son, Edward McCarthy, was one of Whitehall's postmasters.

Francis M. Bartholomew was called the Youngest Vet as he entered service, in the Civil War at the age of 13. Born in Howard, Steuben County, he came to Dresden at six years of age. He drove on the canal in summer and did chores in the winter. He was a member of the American Legion post in Whitehall.

Mrs. Adline LaVia Doty, 88, came from Sorel, Canada, as a young woman.

Walter D. Travis, 98, was one of the oldest Masons when he died in 1934. He was a member of Phoenix Lodge, 96, F. and A.M. He was in the hardware and ice business.

Mrs. Marion Pratt, 91, died on New Year's Day in North Whitehall.

The Whitehall Independent April 23, 1986

Whitehall in 1815 - 1816 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

This map of Whitehall came from the National Archives in Washington. It was drawn by John Anderson and Isaac Roberdeau, U.S.A. in late 1815, early 1816. It was a year before the Champlain Canal was started here in 1817, long before the land between Skene Mountain and the Island was cut by a canal that took traffic from the natural lake and around Fiddler's Elbow and before the Whitehall lithograph of 1819.

During the War of 1812 the Port of Whitehall was an entry port through which military materials and troops passed. A fort, called of other maps Fort Comfort or Fort Diamond, was constructed. Barracks were placed near the rise and entrenchments, which were never used, were dug. The powder magazine remnants were still in evidence in the first part of the twentieth century, remembered by older Whitehallers.

From this map may be seen the reason some early mapmakers called the narrow stretch of water an extension of Wood Creek rather than the head of Lake Champlain. After the battle of Lake Champlain in September 1814 Commodore MacDonough brought to this port some of the American fleet and some of the British prize fleet. The

ships were moored on the west side of the Lake in December 1814. In apprehension that the British might strike from the north the guns were taken from the ships and mounted on land.

After the hostilities had ceased Whitehall was a naval depot for many years. The old storehouse on the east side of the harbor was constructed in 1816. When Stillman, the noted traveler, went through Whitehall (visiting Henry Francisco) he saw the sailors looking out the portholes of the ships. In the decade of the 20's the ships were sold, stripped of valuables and moored in East Bay-Poultney River area. The location of some is known where they are preserved under water for scientific examination of historic artifacts. Two have had such study, TICONDEROGA and EAGLE. One other is waiting it, the British LINNET. The story of this study has been published in the book entitled "History and Construction of the United States Schooner, Ticonderoga" by Kevin Crissman who made the study at Skenesborough Museum of the Ticonderoga, researched its history from primary sources, dived in the river, and wrote his thesis at the University of Texas. He is presently working on the EAGLE.

The Whitehall Times

July 27, 1972

Autograph Books

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Autograph Books were an ideal gift for a female in one's life during the 19th century. Highly decorated or plain, expensive or not, the books were to be filled by friends or acquaintances of the owner who avidly sought signatures as do the high school seniors today with their yearbooks.

One album in the Historical Society's collection was written in the 1830's. Its colored pages for messages and signatures are interspersed with rather somber lithographs but its pages are lightened with original flower paintings by the writers. The messages are usually a page long and in a religious or sentimental family vein. This book belonged to the great parents of Dorothy M. Parker.

Another book was filled by one Cornelia L. Payne during the years 1879-1889. She attended Troy Business School and the signatures are from students in that school from the surrounding communities. It is in the collection because of Sarah Lovinia Dennis of Whitehall, who wrote: Nell, Though lost to sight, to memory dear, your friend."

Autographs became set often, as did the inscriptions on cemetery stones and one reads over and over the same verses like the ones in Maggie Jones' book. She was from Granville but many of the entries are from Whitehall. Her daughter Blodwen Williams wrote: Roses are red, Violets are blue, Candy is sweet, And so are you, while Ella Williams wrote: When you are married and live upstairs, don't get proud and put on airs." Her father wrote his greeting in Welsh as did many of her friends.

Autographs are found in other places and in the collection are some school books whose leaves are used for friendly greetings and sentiments. In Cora Mylotte's arithmetic

book is this When this you see, Remember me and all my faults forget erase them from thy memory if they remain there yet. Yours respectfully, Chas. E. McFarren; while Carrie McFarren said: Cora, What people write in albums seems to me all the same, and all I have to give you is my friendship and my name". Others had no signature but show the verse used. My pen is poor, My ink is pale, My love for you shall never fail. Forget me not, forget me never, strawberry face won't last forever. When this you see, remember me a bare mind a constant friend is hard to find but when you find one just as true change not the old one for the new.

And Cora had this one for a friend: Always remember And never forget, Lebbie and Cora are good friends yet. Plow deep when the sluggards sleep And you will have corn to sell and to keep.

Do you have Grandma's or Mother's old album? Get it out and spend some happy moments with it. You'll be surprised to find what a great person she was through other's eyes and what kind of people she knew through their own choice of greetings.

XXX

In July 1872 Rev. D. Lull came to stay in Whitehall for a time with Mr. and Mrs. Anson Parks, as he said "Away from the heated, dusty, noisy streets of the great metropolis, among the glorious lakes and hills of the Champlain region." With the present heat wave we might agree with her when she told the guest she would sooner live in a hovel on Skene Mountain and pick whortleberries for a living than be in the noise-smitten brown stone and brick imprisoned city.

The Whitehall Independent March 23, 1988

A Will of 1839 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

When high school students study the works of Shakespeare they tend to be hilarious when they learn that a feather bed was a prized possession to be willed to a wife. They do not know how many goose feathers are needed to make a bed or the softness or the warmth it has in cold houses, or that people in northern Europe still sleep between pads of these feathers. These feather beds were made into pillows, which have also mainly disappeared. The young folks cannot understand the pleasure a housewife had when her feather beds were high and perfectly smooth after being fluffed up and made.

This will shows that a feather bed's worth lasted a long time, even into the 20th century.

I, William Orr, of the Town of Whitehall, County of Washington , being of sound mind and body do make and publish this my last will and testament, in manner following:

Item. I will that my just debts be paid.

I will and bequeath to my son, William Henry, all my real estate subject to the payment of the sum of one hundred dollars to Eliza Ann, daughter of my brother Solomon, when by son shall be at the age of twenty one years, but without interest.

Item. I give and bequeath to my daughter, Eliza Jane, the sum of two hundred dollars and one good feather bed to be paid to her when she arrives at the age of twenty one years by my said son, William Henry, but if my said daughter should not live to be twenty one then in that event, my said son is to be freed from paying the said sum of two hundred dollars. The said feather bed and the devise of two hundred do Hard is hereby made a charge upon my real estate devised to my said son.

Item. My will and desire is that my wife should continue to reside upon and occupy such part of my real estate as may be necessary for her and my children schooled and brought up in a good and decent way.

Lastly, I do hereby nominate and appoint - John Kirtland of Whitehall and my wife Catherine executrix of this my last will and testament.

This will was subscribed and witnessed by Jesse R. Billings and Israel Howe
May 11, 1839.

This William and Solomon Orr were the sons of Robert Orr. Solomon was known as the "hundred canal boat man" and worked between Whitehall and Troy. What does this expression mean?

The Whitehall Times

July 2, 1987

Railroads 1848 - 1915

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

An interesting bit of railroad history was related when 1915 Eli S. Terry "Ted" received notice in the Albany Press for his Forty Year Medal as an engineer.

Mr. Terry began railroad work in 1848 at 12 years of age. His job was to ride horseback from the station to Death Rock to see if the Champlain Steamboat was approaching, using field glasses. He would ride to the biggest top of the mountain and wigwag his information to the station. If the boat was not too belated the train would be held. If it was, the passengers would have to wait in Whitehall until another southbound train left the station.

The Whitehall Times
March 24, 1988

1848 and 1849
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The meeting of the State Agricultural Society met in Whitehall 11 December 1849 at the Phoenix Hotel.

John H. Boyd of Whitehall was the president. At their meeting the premiums not awarded at the annual fair at Syracuse were given. This year the one in Whitehall concerned wheat which had been discussed at some length.

Isaac Wood of Whitehall received a premium for his production of wheat and gave his method of raising it. His land was gravelly with a porous sub-soil. It was elevated and dry and shaded by about 29 apple trees of 45 years growth. Over the years the land had been cultivated from sparse grass to his bumper crop. The first year produced corn, 40 bushels to the acre. The second year gave oats, 30 bushels to the acre. That fall wheat seed steeped in strong brine and coated with lime was sown, two bushels to the acre. On 10 July it was harvested by sickle and set up in bunches of 15 sheaves. The wheat on one acre was 37 $\frac{3}{4}$ bushels of wheat. A by product was 204 bundles of straw. His net profit was \$45.21.

This same year Nathan Jackson of Whitehall raised 92 bushels of corn worth \$63 and pumpkins worth \$5, which after expenses gave him a profit of \$45.50. Andrew Wilson had a crop of 91 bushels.

Washington County evidently did not exhibit much at the fairs. Over the state as a whole cheese and butter was increasing in interest. One interesting note was the silk produced by Amos Gray of Salem. Other crops included potatoes, flax, carrots, hay, buckwheat, peas, rye, and oats in any amounts.

The various county fairs were held in September and October with the official meetings of their societies in December. Reports were given to the state society to be printed in the transactions submitted to the legislature. Many "papers" were prepared by experts and given as lectures, which must have been hours long to listen to.

Many were requested by the state agricultural society and printed. One such is the Historical, Topographical, and Agricultural Survey of the County of Washington by Asa Fitch of Salem. The first part appeared in 1848 with the history of the towns in which much was written of Philip Skene. The second part in 1849 dealt with the other parts of the title.

The Whitehall Independent
December 23, 1987

Whitehall in 1874, 1974, and 1987
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



The 1870's seem to be the time that Whitehall had a high population. In 1874 the editor of "The Whitehall Times" used the names of his advertisers in a mock of Christmas poem. The following is a comparison between 1874 and 1974 using the same idea.

"Christmas! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to All!" exclaimed a little chubby faced old man as he drove into town behind a team of eight tiny reindeer. He talked mainly to himself as he laid his plans.

"First I must have a bank to deposit my funds. I see there are two." There are still two but one with a name change. "I may have to stay overnight with all this shopping to do. I must make a reservation. There are three places." There were three - one deleted and one added and still three.

"Clothing - warm, pretty, and useful -includes boots, shoes, and hats." Eight were listed, including the services of two catalog stores. Now there are three. "I still take my last year's clothing to Arv's Dry Cleaners and Laundromat." This is still in operation. "A little good wine will go well with Christmas dinner. I see there are two stores where I can get it." Retirement leaves but one.

"After eating a huge Christmas dinner the grownups may need some drugs or medicine. I've seen one such store. "With a change in name there is one.

"As I can call a doctor one of four." Now there are two.

"With accidents to teeth or eye there are two dentists and an optometrist. This number is still the same.

"This may be a cold winter. I can call on four sellers of fuel." This number is still the same four.

This could go on and on. Can you see the difference in numbers from 5 insurance concerns, seven social places nine beauty parlors, three garages, three real estate firms, four barber shops, eight gas stations, four furniture stores and appliance, and many places like news rooms, restaurants, greeting cards, flower shops, etc.

Then count up all the new places of business that have been added to accommodate the needs and desires of the population of 1987. Whitehall is looking up Merry Christmas.

The Whitehall Times December 12, 1974

Whitehall 1974 al la 1874 Christmas Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In the 1870's, The Whitehall Times described in its columns the wares of the merchants and businessmen about town. At the risk of omitting some names, which will be entirely unintentional, (Would you believe there are over 125?) we'll try to imitate 1874's columns with present day names.

"Christmas Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!" exclaimed a little chubby faced old man as he drove into town behind a team of eight tiny reindeer. "Ah! Here is The Whitehall Times Office. In I must go and get a paper to see who the live merchants really are." And he talked mainly to himself as he laid his plans.

First I must have a bank to deposit my funds and at the same time open an account. I see there are two banks in Whitehall — the National Commercial Bank and Trust company and the Troy Savings bank.

Since I may have to stay overnight with all my shopping I have to do, I must make reservations. Let's see there's the New Arlington Hotel and what's this? Must be a new word for lodging — motel — the Redwood and Whitehall motels are listed.

Clothing — warm, pretty and useful — includes boots, shoes and hats is a big item on my list. I can get a variety at Army and Navy store. Barber's Clothier, Chase's Market, Marion Dress Shop, J. J. Newberry, and the Thrift Shop and I can order some from Ward's and Sears catalog services. I shall have Arv's Dry Cleaners and Laundromat spruce up my last year's clothing while I'm shopping.

People do love to eat and this year especially gifts in that line should please so I'll go to the Butcher Shop, Champlain Beef, Grand Union, Jumbo's IGA Food-liner, Putorti's Broadway Market, and Stewart's Bread 'n Butter Shop. I'll order plenty of milk from Rivette's Dairy for the children.

A little good wine will go well with Christmas dinner for some families and I can get that at Fragnoli's and Pippo's stores.

After eating a huge Christmas dinner, of course, the grown-ups will need some drugs or medicines and Woodcock's pharmacy will be the drug store to visit.

I must call and engage a doctor to attend the little ones who may eat too much. Let's see — there're Dr. Jay Edison, Dr. Joseph Foote, Dr. B. L. Kellogg, Dr. Erich Seligmann. Alex Manuele, physiotherapist, might help me. While I'm about it I'll

engage Dr. Reginald Carroll and Dr. Arthur Yellen to check the little ones' teeth and Dr. Norman Drew, their eyes.

It seems cold for this time of year. E. & R. Beckwith, Inc., Lake Champlain Coal Company, D. J. FitzGerald Coal Company and Texgas Corporation will supply fuel for me.

Some of my patrons have been talking about new furniture and appliances which I know I can find at Bar Stool, Texgas Corporation, Scott's Furniture Store and J. & B. Appliances. Ross Furniture store is the place to take their old furniture.

Gerri's and Tony's newsrooms can make many happy with newspapers, periodicals and books while they sit beneath roofs made by Keller.

Women folks will enjoy having beauty appointment so I'll get in touch with Adelaide's, Alta's, Barbara's, Marguerite's, Nancy's, Pauline's, and the New Woman.

The same is true for men folks who can go to Joe's, Belleville's, Kelley's and the Hollywood.

Younger folks probably think my way of traveling is too slow. I'll see F. H. Kingsley & Sons, J. Walter Newell Garage, and Stevens and Barber Garage for new cars and Champlain Power Equipment and Norman MacLeod Saw Shop for snowmobiles. For service and gas I'll send them to Buxton's, BP, Chevron, Compitello's, Leo's Texaco, Guy Newell's, Martell's Mobile, Whitehall Shell. For auto parts they will go to Bel-Mar Auto Parts, Inc., and Whitehall Auto Supply.

Whitehall is a good place to live. Perhaps B&D Builders and Development, Champlain Valley Real Estate, and Whitehall Mobile Homes can help me find some places in which people can live. While I am about it I must see where I can find some lumber. Champlain Valley Lumber Company and Norman MacLeod Saw Shop seem to be the best places for that.

This would be a good time to find out the construction companies. I see there are Soothcage Brothers, and Terry Masonry & Construction. I could use Al-Jean Trucking also.

Christmas is the time to send greetings to old friends. I'll need lots of cards from Grand Union, Sach's Jewelry, Scime's Flower Shop, The Whitehall Times, and Woodcock's Pharmacy. I must remember the stamps at the post office and mailing early. (More to come)

The Whitehall Times December 21, 1972

Holiday Goods 1875 - 1972 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Using for pattern a column in 22 December 1875 Whitehall Times labeled Holiday Goods and substituting present day names just for fun:

A newspaper carries the signs of all enterprising shopkeepers into the household of every family. We take pleasure in saying that our Whitehall merchants are, most of them, enterprising. If you desire to add a lot of groceries to your purchases bear in mind

that Notarmei, Jumbo, Putorti, Hartnoll and Scime are just the markets to supply your many wants in the grocery line. (R. M. Witherbee, H. T. Gaylord, John F. Clark, Taylor Manville, J. H. Sullivan & Co., S. K. Griswold.)

Of course drugs and medicines are not just the thing for holiday gifts, still if you are made sick by eating a big Christmas dinner, you can get plenty of medicine at Woodcock's (O. A. Manville, Lawrence Corbett, P. F. X. Renois), while if you desire excellent wines Catone and Siraco liquor stores can supply you (Larry Corbett, Orve Manville).

In the way of ready made clothing Marion, Roselli and Barber cannot be undersold (Ed Pratt, A. H. Farrington, E. McCormick, Phil Graulich, H. R. Wait).

Hardware is something that every person needs more or less. Pippo keeps a stock of all kinds of hardware, stoves, crockery, glassware and fancy goods on hand, which will be offered way low (George A. Hall, Pierce and Allen, T. S. McLachlin, Hall and Kittredge).

Scott can also display a larger and better and more complete stock of household furniture than most places the size of Whitehall can boast of. His stock is complete at the present time and Mr. Scott wishes an inspection of his wares. Fragnoli specializes in some lines (Doren),

(The first part of this paragraph is obliterated KB) Mrs. Ganoung, Mrs. Stickney and Mrs. Douglas can cut, make, trim dresses that are purchased for holiday gifts in a manner that cannot be excelled.

If you want any periodicals, books or newspapers, Tony and Catone can supply you (C. C. Adams).

Newell, Kingsley and Stevens have a lot of cars on hand and are just the articles for holiday presents (Cutter, robes, sleighs, blankets, whips of L. F. Miller) and parts at Bel-Air Auto Parts,

Go see Sachs and Brock at the jewelry stores. They have a large stock of jewelry, silverware, clocks, etc., on hand. They are reliable and understand how to select goods for the trade. Their success is due to the fact that they are live merchants (C. Pike).

If you want to present your poor neighbor with some oil Beckwith, Benjamin and FitzGerald ads will tell you who the enterprising oil merchants are (H. C. Jillson's coal).

For lumber to build with Whitehall Lumber will dress you up with what you need with which to erect your dwelling at low rates (Manville Hall & Co., Brett and Bascom).

If you want a nice photograph to present to your friends, G.& M. Photos can secure you as natural as life (Richardson).

In the way of good banking houses, those that are sound and reliable, Whitehall cannot be surpassed. National Commercial and Troy Savings are live institutions (Merchants National, Old National, Bull Bros, private).

If you want to take out a policy on your life or your property and present the same to your family as a security against the future, Kinner, Burns, Williams, Terry, Day are just the agents to furnish you first class policies (Baldwin & Bascom, Doren & Earl, Eddy Bros., S. C. Bull).

Now that we have ended our little chapter, we have but one more word to say and that is to all our readers, subscribe to The Whitehall Times and carefully peruse the ad columns after reading the other matter. The live merchants will advertise in its columns.

The Whitehall Times
May 27, 1976

May 1876
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

On 11 May a military company adopted its constitution and by-laws and decided to rent Anderson Hall for its armory and the rooms beneath it for its meeting rooms. The company held drills twice a week. Many of the Civil War veterans joined the company.

The Whitehall Times
June 8, 1978

Anyone for Waffles? – May 23, 1878
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

One hundred years ago, 23 May, Whitehall had a waffle eating contest. The waffles were being paid for by two of the prominent men of the village Chauncey Bates and W. H. Murray. But much money changed hands as the large crowd at the north end of the footbridge bet on the capacity of the eater.

The contestant, Pauquette, was dressed in a brown canvas shirt and overalls, the latter very large at the waist, around which he wore a leather belt, buckled. He was five feet one inch tall and weighed 140 pounds.

Time was called and the eater began. Round by round he ate through 50 waffles without liquid of any kind.

Round 1: Slowly he ate his way through 10 waffles in 11 minutes.

Round 2: In just 11 minutes longer he covered 10 waffles, making 27 ½ ounces of waffles in 22 minutes.

Round 3: Lasted 10 minutes with 10 waffles or 30 all told, making 37 ½ ounces.

Round 4: Lasted 17 minutes in which he devoured eight waffles, total 38 in 47 minutes.

Round 5: Lasted over an hour, six waffles only disappearing. He began to admit his stomach was getting full. His boasts that he could eat 100, which he had made at the start, were no more heard and the plucky man began to let out his belt. A lump about the size of a wen appeared over the region of his india-rubber stomach.

Round 6: Lasted an hour and 10 minutes. The crowd became excited. Many wagers were made that he would fail on the home stretch, but those who knew his eating capacity were ready to bet their last dollars. He had, of course, eaten 55 ounces of dry waffles without anything to drink at all. The eater looked rather groggy.

Round 7: The crowd present were wild with excitement as he devoured the last six waffles in three-quarters of an hour, accomplished his feat of 50 waffles in two hours and 35 minutes.

This was not the first examples of this man's ability. Once he had consumed two pounds of raw sausage, two loaves of bread and a pint of molasses within an hour. On another occasion he ate three pounds of codfish and two loaves of bread without drinking a drop of water during the feat. He was said to be able to fast a week at a time, and when in the army, when three or four days rations were given him he usually made one meal of the whole quantity and fasted until more were issued. On one occasion it is said he ate nine days rations at one meal and held up for a week without anything but water.

He was also a great walker. He could walk farther in a day than any other man in these parts. He could dive under water underneath a boat and remain under water 40 seconds at a time with perfect ease. He was often employed to do jobs beneath water craft.

He prided himself on his eating qualifications and a wager of \$100 was made again between Bates and Murray, Bates betting that he could eat 75 waffles. But, although people were expecting great fun, this contest did not take place.

The Whitehall Times

March 21, 1985

Marriage Customs - 1880's & 90's

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Details of marriages in the 1880's and '90's were described with details of happenings that are long gone from the modern scene. Great hilarity was occasioned as shown in some of these sketches.

Martha Pinninger and Charles were married at home on Wheeler Avenue, 4 June 1896. After refreshments the guests acted as though it were the Fourth of July at the depot. One hundred torpedoes were exploded between the depot and the south railroad bridge. Greek fire burned in the air. Gleaming fire balls from Roman candles gave lines and circles in the black sky, sometimes landing on the backs of horses. The yard engines tooted hoarsely "goodbye" and "good luck." The railroad tracks were deep in rice. The editor said the send off was "against the grain."

The wedding of Susan Tisdale Sanborn and Henry Gordon Burleigh on 17 June of the same year was described as solemn, dignified, and graceful. Shortly before their train left for the south they were struck by a rice cyclone lasting several seconds. There were several shocks and the fall of rice was very dense, but no one was injured.

The double wedding of C. Edson Parker and Maud Sleight and David Sleight and Amy Rice took place at Cold Spring Hotel 18 June. They left on the train for the north amid showers of rice and railroad torpedoes.

One of the first weddings in the new Notre Dame des Victoires (Church) was unusual in that it was held in the evening. Francelia Normandin and Ferdinand Rock were attended by the usual ushers and bridesmaids but as the bride was one of the founders of the Altar Society of the church and for some time its president twenty-one of the Society preceded her up the aisle. The bride entered on the arm of her father and the groom followed with his father.

Another feature of these wedding announcements was the listing of the gifts, often in great numbers. The list for the Katharine Sawyer and Ira Farnham contained solid silver, oak and cherry furniture, and other "costly" gifts. But that of the Beckwith-Douglas nuptials would have been great as enough was given to set up housekeeping from kitchen to parlor and from bedroom to dining room. Oddly enough the names of the bride and groom were not given in the whole write-up.

Mary Nelson and Joseph W. Sears elected to step into their own home before going on a honeymoon later. It was completely furnished so they could begin housekeeping at once. The mother of the bride had given the furnishings of a bedroom from carpet to toilet set. There were sets of spoons, knives, and forks; silver baskets, and a set of hand painted fruit plates, now a collectors' item.

Brides' gowns were mentioned as they still are today. The materials were: white brocade with Lincoln point lace; pale yellow satin brocade; mauve colored Henrietta with white trimmings; and white dotted swiss.

One couple did not wish any good luck devices to bring the happiness. Their friends decorated blankets of the horses with "We are happy now" and "kno rice, Kno old shoes."

The Whitehall Times September 14, 1978

Record Books – 1802 to 1892 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Research Library is now being cataloged by members of the Historical Society of Whitehall and the Town and Village Historian. One of the classifications is record books of various businesses and professions.

The following entries are from books at various times. Dr. C. S. Hanks presented this bill to Miss Ella Bascom in 1882:

Treting tooth and filling root \$1.25, 1 gold filling \$2.75, 1 gold filland and repair of alloy filling \$2.00, 2 alloy fillings \$1.50, extracting 2 teeth for Master B \$0.50.

In some cases the name of the merchant is not noted but his customers are: In 1802 Peter Castle paid 1 pound 4 shillings for flour; Abner Glines paid 3 shillings six pence for 2 quarts of molasses, 10 pence for 1 gill bitters; Isaac Harlow paid 2 pounds 8 shillings for three yards of chintz, 4 shillings 10 pence for 2 pounds of sugar, 1 shilling 8 pence for one cake chocolate.

In 1835 Isaac Griswold sold 1 vest pattern for 44 cents, 1 pair calf boots \$4.20, 1 yard buckram for 11 cents, 1 Swiss cravat for 33 cents, Vi barrel flour to R. Skeels for \$4.18, 1/2 barrel flour to French man for \$4.75, 1 barrel to Charles Perry for \$6.50, 1 barrel to Augustus Aus for \$6.50, 1 barrel to Isaac Griswold for \$7.00.

In 1875 Frank Howes bought one second hand cook stove for \$5.00.

In 1877 Ezra A. Beden purchased 6 dozen screws for 30 cents; A.D. Gibbs bought 4 pounds 10 penny nails for 20 cents; J.F. Clark bought 22Vi yards cash for \$18.00;

Miles Johnson bought 1 tin pail for 75 cents; A.I. Watkins bought 1 lawn mower for \$5.00; S. M. McLachlin bought 1 spoon and 1 knife for 35 cents; Ambrose Gilligan bought 1 horse brush for 75 cents; Pat Kinny bought 1 dozen dinner plates for 75 cents.

In 1892 J. E. Earl bought 2 pounds of soda for 16 cents, 1 dozen eggs for 18 cents; Dr. D.E. Higgins bought 1 box pepper for 10 cents, 1 sack flour 80 cents; F.D. Emerson bought 1 pound butter for 25 cents, 2 loaves of bread for 16 cents; William M. Keith bought 2 pounds of coffee for 70 cents, 4 pounds of apples for 32 cents, 9 ½ pounds of ham for \$1.30. Mrs Wilkins bought 1 pair of gloves for 75 cents.

Besides giving prices that we can smile at in these days, these account books have the names of early citizens of Whitehall. The 1802 book has been used as a scrap book for stories, as many of the books have, but the material can be removed, not without difficulty, and be of use for our history. So don't throw away those old books. Not too long ago Jesse Walker brought to town four scrapbooks made in the 1930's containing news items of Whitehall and current events, more recent than those quoted above but as valuable for their time

The Whitehall Times December 4, 1986

Day Book 1843 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

H. A. Griswold came to Whitehall from Benson in the early 1840's. He was from the family line of the other Griswold men who became business men in the village. Proving his efficiency in watch repairing to a jeweler he secured a position in his store and eventually became its sole proprietor on Broad Street, now North Main.

The flyleaf of H. A.'s day book was inscribed: No man's name within this book written who cannot pay the cash when bidden.

He was not married when he first came to Whitehall and so included his boarding prices. In September 1843 he boarded at the Anglo Saxon Hotel, just south of the present bank at Saunders Street.

In April 1844 he changed to John Wood at four dollars a week; then in May commenced boarding with Charles C. Rich at one dollar and a half a week.

The account book has entries for two years, payment was made in English as American Coinage. The larger part of the entries were for watch repairing or glass faces for them. Prices are interesting as compared with today's. The customer names are the familiar residents of that early period. Spelling can be different C. McCourt paid \$2 for a gold key; C. Greenough bought a pair of silver spectacles for \$2; M. Greenough received a mirror for \$1.25 and a wallet for 38 cents.

One set of plate spoons cost William Patterson 75 cents; E. Boynton had a pencil repaired for 13 cents; Charles Thurman bought a clock for \$3.50 while P. Johnson got a set of silver tea spoons for \$6 and a lampshade for thirteen cents. Mrs. M. McCoun bought a broom for one pence 6 shillings and William Watkins a plain ring for six pence.

Other items: add pillows, pin \$1.75; job chain \$2.75; clock \$10; anchor iron \$30; 2 fiddle strings 20 cents; pair scissors 25 cents; breast pin \$1.50; two steel pens 50 cents.

The Whitehall Independent
August 14, 1986

Masons in 1886
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Does anyone climb Bird Mountain to see the monument there, the materials of which it was built carried up greatly by hand? The corner stone was laid in September of 1886. The materials of which it was made were purple, green, and red slate. There were colored marble, soapstone, sandstone, and brick, many of them inscribed with the names of the donors with many Masonic emblems.

The monument was planned to be 750 bricks, eighteen feet high. It would be the only Masonic monument in the world. Whitehall Phoenix Lodge 96 F. and A. M. had the largest delegation from any state, ten in number. It was an extremely warm day and a steep climb.

The Whitehall Times
January 21, 1971

Hudson River Pollution 1886
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Pollution seems to be a big topic of the day. Who would think pollution of the "Hudson" river could affect Whitehall industry? But that is what it did in the latter part of the 19th century.

This is an item from Whitehall Times, January, 1886:

"The outlook for ice in the Hudson is unpromising. Despite the cold weather of a week or two past, there has not been much hope brightening for the dealers. There is a good, clear body of ice at some places in the (Hudson) river but it is covered to the depth of two feet by debris of filth and frozen slush which flowed over the surface during recent thaws.

"This frozen substance defies all removal, and in conjunction with cakes of ice on edge, sideways and every shape for acres in extent makes the harvest a precarious one. Channels have been cut through the ice in attempts made to float away the worthless portion, but to no avail as 'twould fill in again as fast as removed. There is some talk of ice dealers coming to this section to obtain ice for household and drinking purposes.

It is said, here "that the Ice on South Bay was never better."

That is just what happened which leads to a later story of ice harvesting on South Bay.)

The Whitehall Times
January 13, 1983

1886 – 1888 Newspaper Personals
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

By reading a series of personals in newspapers, one can learn a wealth of information about a family and an area of society. Some editors would take a great number of such items. Some people deplore their use, "Oh, he writes for the paper and his name is always in," but those people are the ones who read and enjoy the things they deplore. In a scrapbook covering 1886-1888 there is a series of these personals in the southern area of Comstock Road. Selecting those of one family, I found the homely way of life in earlier times, the way of entertainment when there was no radio or television, how vacations were spent, and the highlights of entertainment.

Anthony, William and John were the male members of these households. Doubtless they were farmers for the event of William's good fortune of having a mare produce two colts was recorded. Anthony was a deacon in the Baptist Church and his attendance at regional meetings of the society were noted. When Mrs. John had her 81st birthday, the solidarity of family ties was noted in that all members of the family but one living in the west came to help her celebrate. "Grandma was as young as ever." The family rejoiced when Anthony's little daughter arrived and grieved when John's Williams wife died after 21 years of marriage.

Vacations were spent out of town but the distance covered was not great. John and his family "recreated" at Lake George with friends from the West. Anthony and family spent a few days at Round Lake. This used to be a great camp meeting locale.

Day visits were common. Mrs. John spent a whole day with her daughter down the road. Mr. and Mrs. William visited her brother in Sandy Hill. The whole families attended the golden wedding anniversary of the clergyman in West Granville. A large social gathering brought neighbors together.

Another form of entertainment furnished gaiety for all while benefiting the clergyman of the area. Mr. Williams' family gave a pie party for the benefit of Rev. Smith. Fifty people were in attendance and they were entertained by recitations, charades, music and readings. The receipts from the party were more than anticipated. A Valentine party raised money by the auction of a quilt and a fish pond.

Mrs. William had a novel visiting party. She sent invitations to mothers in the vicinity with children under one year. There were many children who enjoyed themselves immensely and the mothers had a chance to be proud of her baby.

Another benefit from these scrapbook personals is the placing of families in neighborhoods. From this series we know that Kinners, Johnsons, Polleys, Kingsleys, Osgoods, Statias and many others were in the community that produced these personals. We who know the friendly association of this same community today are happy to know that the spirit of neighborliness and helpfulness has not disappeared with "Progress" of the times.

The Whitehall Times
March 15, 1976

Whitehall about 1907
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

An interesting souvenir of Whitehall has been added to our files by Mrs. Bessie Hall Sherlock of Port Henry. A folder contains post cards of Hall House on the site of present Elks Club and the Hall Mansion that was on West Mountain. The main feature of this is an addenda measuring two by one inches of small flip pictures of Whitehall about 1907 when the new canal construction was begun. These pictures include Skene Mountain with the Manor, the harbor with canal boats looking toward the Lake Champlain Transportation building, the head of Lake Champlain showing the silk mill, South Canal Street, North Canal Street, D.&H. depot with tracks, and Pike Brook Cascade. One noticeable one is Front Street (?), a section of Broadway looking north at the old YMCA building. Another is Whitehall in the distance looking toward Skene Mountain from a point on the present road leading north from the village. It is across the body of water before the marsh was dried, a section in which Jesse Walker once told me he used to row and shoot ducks.

These post cards and pictures often add details to the picture of Whitehall not noted elsewhere. The town and village historian of Whitehall has begun compilation of a Pictorial History of Whitehall to be published during our nation's bicentennial. Pictures of old Whitehall and its citizens are being sought for copying, which does not harm the original.

The Whitehall Times
January 11, 1973

1908
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

On 1 Jan. 1908 a new law went into effect that all persons intending to marry had to present a certificate from the city or town clerk. Each person had to appear and answer questions as to name, color, residence and place of birth. Clergymen could not perform a marriage ceremony without this paper.

Could it have been cause and effect that the Whitehall Chronicle of 3 Jan. 1908 reported such a large number of weddings? Some had no dates mentioned: Dec. 29, Walter Richards of Albany and Violet Elizabeth King of Whitehall; in December both of Whitehall and workers in the Silk Mill, Nina E. Clark and Gilbert Cunningham; Dec. 26, Walter C. Benedict, an engineer on the barge canal work, and Miss Chase from Scranton, Pa.; Dec. 25, Lulu May Juckett of Whitehall and Robert Shields of Hebron; Jan. 2, Lois A. Milo of the Rochester Clothing company and L. A. Francis of Worcester, Mass.; Dec. 25, Frank Babcock and Anna Barber of Dresden; Dec. 25, Arthur sons L.

Hammond, a D.&H. and Lavonia M, Rausch of Lake; Dec.30, John J. O'Brien and Mrs. Mary Clykeman, nee McCarthy, both of Whitehall; Dec. 30, William Murray and Margaret Holden both of Whitehall.

The Whitehall Times **May 3, 1984**

How Great Meadows Happened? **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

In 1903 there seemed to be a controversy among the towns of Granville, Fort Ann in Comstock, and Whitehall over the proposed New York State Insane Asylum that was to have been built somewhere in Washington County.

Rev. N. Richards of Whitehall wrote a letter for publication in the Whitehall Chronicle in which the assets of Whitehall were advocated for the institution. He contrasted the carrying of the patients from Albany to Granville and to Whitehall from Albany. The Greenwich Journal replied by saying that Mr. Richards must have been comparing Granville and Whitehall of the 70s. Greenwich could be reached from Troy in an hour but there would be two changes of cars and the passage was accompanied by very rough riding.

The Journal overlooked the fact that Whitehall could be reached over a double track in two hours, and that this town's position was a railway center and a port of water transportation.

The Fort Ann Republican answered also but made light of Whitehall's advantages, although it conceded that Whitehall's scenery was much better than Comstock's.

Over one year later, on 29 November 1904, about 50 Whitehall people went to Albany to urge before the State Commission on Lunacy the adoption of Whitehall as the site of the project.

According to C. E. Holden's research, the commission of the state seemed to take kindly to the idea and the delegation returned home with instructions to secure all possible information as to the advantages of the suggested site. The Board of Trade, forerunner of the Chamber of Commerce, took up the matter and secured options on the Norton Farm on the side of Skene Mountain and adjoining land to the extent of about 1,000 acres. Plans were made for supplying water and for sewage disposal. Careful topographical surveys were made and other information desired by the commission was secured.

But suddenly politics entered into the situation. No one knew just why, or what the moving reason might be, but it was suddenly announced that the state had purchased the Baker farm at Comstock for the asylum. There was quite an outcry at this and the next decision was not to build an asylum at all.

But the state had the farm on its hands and presently it was decided to build a new and modern state prison on the site. And that's how the Great Meadow Prison happened.

The Whitehall Times
June 25, 1987

Great Meadows Prison - 1914
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Great Meadow Prison now seems like a venerable city when the lights are on at night. The inspection of the institution made a report in 1914. The population was 628; 81 in road building camps; 17 on women's farm site in Valatie; 15 on Winddale site.

The site contained 998.22 acres; 12 of lawn and buildings; 17 in garden; 15 in orchard; 125 in meadow; 578 in pasture. Available for cultivation was 312 acres; 567 as permanent woodland; 50 as permanent pasture too rough to clear; 57.22 not available for cultivation. The tree nurseries were among the large nurseries of the state.

Employment of the men was guaranteed for a long time in the grading and excavations around the grounds. The surface of the land was such that it required great amounts of excavating and grading. A narrow gauge track and eight steel cars had been secured for the work. A large farm needed many men for the crops raised, mostly vegetables. There were cows, calves, hogs, sheep and chickens. In 1913 the products from the farm were sold for \$7955.61.

The warden was constructing residences for the prison guards by inmate labor, the rents to be a permanent income for the institution Road building took the inmate to Ticonderoga, Warrensburg, Keeseville, Saratoga and Granville.

On the day of inspection the duties of the various inmates were listed as: janitors, barbers, wash house, bake shop, mess room, hospital, dentist, road, yard, state shop, farm, quarry, greenhouse, clerk, teachers, gallery men, and construction men for officers' cottages.

How much the operation at Comstock has changed?

The Whitehall Times
May 1, 1975

Prices in 1911
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

This isn't exactly comparison pricing in the strict sense of the word, but it shows a difference in our living. William Archambault brought some sales slips from the George Clemons store in Clemons made out during the year 1911. I checked some present day prices against them. Products are put up in packages today and that, of course, would add to the price.

The woman who made these purchases in 1911 traded her butter on account. For a pound she received 20 cents. One brand of butter today is 89 cents. Salmon was 10 cents a pound. Whether this was the usual salt salmon or not is not indicated but this common food has now become almost a luxury at \$2.09 a pound. A pound of tea was 36 cents.

Today the loose green tea, which this probably was, is \$1.09 a half pound. Three "smoking" (those small tins?) were 15 cents. One brand now is \$1.49 for seven ounces. A box of the regular matches was 5 cents. A comparable one today is 16 cents. A pineapple was 12 ½ cents then; now one is 49 cents. Other items not now usually purchased in grocery stores were 100 pounds of meal for \$1.35; 1 bushel of oats 52 cents; and 1 bushel of corn 85 cents.

This looks like a great change but other phases of the economy must enter to get a true picture. Working hours and wages in comparison would be greatly different also.

The advertising on the back of the sales slip was "Wholesale and Retail Dealer in Groceries and Provisions, Flour, Feed, Dry Goods, Hardware and Farming Implements. — All accounts must be settled monthly. Freight and Express Directions, Clemons, N.Y. George L. Clemons."

The Whitehall Times **February 3, 1983**

Herman Brown
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

"Preserving The Past For The Future" heads an article by Cpl. Chris Fordney of the Marine Corps featuring the Marine Corps Aviation Museum at Quantico, Va. The museum is directed by Major Herman Brown, who grew up in Whitehall.

Housed in four metal hangers originally erected in the 1920's, the museum is located on the old Brown Field. There are nine fully restored World War II aircraft on display along with Japanese aircraft captured by the Marines. Some of the airships visible are Corsairs, Zeros, Avengers, Wildcats and Douglas Dauntless.

The aircraft are brought to the museum from locations around the world and restored to first class condition. If possible, only original parts are used. Historic accuracy is the keynote. Never again to see action, the exhibits reflect the air-ground concept of the Marine Corps.

Other items on display are a Marine operator's tent, propellers, murals of aerial combat and air race scenes, memorabilia of early heroes and portraits of early aviators. The story of Major Herman Brown's war experience brings to mind the experiences of other Whitehall citizens who served their country.

The pilot of a Marine "Sea Knight" attack helicopter, Brown once led a reconnaissance team into heavy enemy fire and escaped with bullet holes in his rear engine transmission and forward rotor blade.

For his action, Brown received a gold medal from President Johnson in lieu of a second distinguished flying cross for heroism and extraordinary achievement.

Herman is completing his Marine Corps duty at the Aviation Museum where future plans call for a Vietnam War display. The museum is open to the public from April through November.

A scrapbook of newspaper items dealing with Whitehall servicemen has been given to the Research Library.

The Whitehall Independent
June 25, 1986

Camp Minnie Wa Wa
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In the early 1920's Camp Minnie Wa Wa was a Mountain camp for girls open during July and August at Pine Lake, Adirondack Mountains, and New York. The supervisors were members of the National Camp Directors Association of New York City. Its purpose was to give young girls from the New York City area an opportunity to live in an atmosphere of wholesome cheer and perfect safety while they participated in an education that benefited them physically and mentally. The camp of 500 acres was located on Pine Lake, "a transparent basin of water" lying among the mountain tops of the Adirondack range, 900 feet above Lake Champlain, three miles to the east, and 700 feet above Lake George. Five miles to the west was Huletts. The camp covered all of Pine Lake and was settled only along its banks. Forests of white pine, white birch, and poplar sloped to the water on one side and ended in precipitous rock fifty feet higher on the other. It was situated in the midst of a country of great historical interest dating to the Revolution.

Directions to reach Clemons on a direct line to Montreal were to go to Albany and from there via D&H railroad (fare \$8.00); or over Lake George to Bolton Landing, by boat to Huletts Landing, and from there by auto to a direct road to the camp. Only steamer trunks were accepted at camp with bedding in duffle bags.

The fifty girls accepted had ten counselors, one for every five girls, a camp Mother, and a nurse. The camp attire was a white middie blouse with the tricky black tie, pleated bloomers, and white turned up brimmed hats.

Sports, athletics, dancing, dramatics, horseback riding, canoeing, music, and crafts were some of the subjects offered the campers. The season ended with a Shakespearian play 1920, a pageant "The American Girl" in 1921, featuring the Princess and the Piper in 1922, and in 1923 "A Health Program". Spending money of 25 or 50 cents a week was deemed adequate. Auto service was available for Episcopal or Catholic service at Whitehall, always with a chaperone. The fee for a summer was \$300.00.

Trips, excursions, and activities of all kinds kept the girls busy. There were picnic suppers on the lake, overnight hikes, canoe trips on the lake, and hikes in the woods. A trip to Black Mountain, the highest peak around Lake George, included spending a night on the top of the mountain. A trip to the Diameter on South Bay included the ice cave. Fort Ticonderoga, still in ruins, was a trip of seventeen miles away and farther a field was Ausable Chasm which consumed a day.

This information was taken from a brochure put out by Camp Minnie Wa Wa, presented to The Whitehall INDEPENDENT. It contains views around Pine Lake as well as pictures of the camp activities. I wonder if this camp made any impression on Whitehall residents.

The Whitehall Independent
February 29, 1984

A Comparison 1931-1984
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In 1931 a letter to the Whitehall Times compared conditions in two generations. Let's compare with this generation.

Dear Friend:

You and I remember when a good fat hen could be bought for a quarter, and a rooster for less; when eggs were three dozen for a quarter; and milk five cents a quart; when you could buy enough porterhouse steak for two bits to feed the whole family; when bacon was only "po folks" food; and the butcher gave liver away and treated the kids to bologna; when the hired girl worked for \$2.00 a week and did all the family washing; when women wore bustles and hair and too many clothes for convenience, and didn't paint or powder in public, smoke cigarettes, vote, or shake the shimmy; when men wore suspenders, whiskers and boots, chewed tobacco; when "Old Crow" was ten cents a shot and beer five cents a schooner, and lunch was generous and free; when folks worked ten to fifteen hours a day and never thought of going on strike. Tipping the waiter was unknown and you didn't have to buy your hat back every time you checked it. The hanging kerosene lamp in the hall and the stereopticon in the parlor were the acmes of luxury. People were not operated on for appendicitis nor were their veins shot full of serums, and men didn't buy monkey glands, nor have their germs subjected to the microscope. At that, people lived to a ripe old age and traveled miles through the snow to jingling cadence of sleigh bells.

But alas! Also alack! Today everyone goes speeding around in high powered autos at 70 per, sailing through the air at 150, spending most of their time playing golf or the saxophone, shoot craps, play the stock market, make home brew smoke cigarettes and cuss the neighbor: for the high cost of living. In these glorious days when business roars and religion snores, the women are all leg; and no hair, and what clothes they consent to wear leave mighty little to the imagination; they do more than half the voting and spend all the pay check. Folks nowadays go to the movies twice a day patronize night clubs, pay \$5 for fifty cents worth of food, drink wood alcohol at \$10 a quart, dance to the jazz of jungle band and think they are having the devil of a time because they never go to bed the same day they get up.

These are the days of the suffragette profiteer, installment man, rent hog income tax and prohibition. If you still think that life is worth living under these conditions, I wish you "A Happy New Year."

The Whitehall Times

September 16, 1982

The Hibernian Parade 1982

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

"Everybody loves a parade." Well, perhaps not everyone, but many Whitehallers and people from nearby communities lined the streets on Sept. 11 to view the Ancient Order of Hibernians' Parade and listen to the ceremonies in Riverside Park as Commodore John Barry, a Revolutionary Naval hero, was honored.

The event originated in May when Edward Frail of Saratoga A.O.H. asked the cooperation of the Historical Society, Skenesborough Museum and the town historian personnel for honoring an Irish American Naval hero at the Birthplace of the United States Navy.

One hundred years ago such a parade would have been described in detail in line of march. This description will be attempted with some side lights.

As the A.O.H. approached the village, they were greeted by John Molinero's trailer park sign. Along the streets they saw similar welcome green and white posters provided by the chamber of commerce. The New Arlington Hotel was festive with green shamrocks and entwined pillars with greens. Putorti's Market had notice of a special corned beef and sauerkraut.

Everywhere where there was action, photographers Carol Greenough, John Ferris and Mike Putorti were snapping pictures for a colorful remembrance of the day. Children and adults followed Slush Puppy, Cheryl Putorti, who dispensed lollypops.

Forming on Davis and Elizabeth streets, the parade went down Williams Street, crossed Saunders Street Bridge, down Main to Clinton avenue, up to Broadway, up that to Poultney Street, over that to Skenesborough Drive and down that to Riverside Park.

Washington county Sheriffs Deputy John Lancour of Argyle and Keith Bearor of Fort Ann preceded the marchers. The two beautiful horses stepped proudly along until Saunders Street confronted them. Horses do not like to walk on open deck flooring. These two politely refused by backing away several times. But by gentle handling and leading they went across. A very large green banner "Welcome Ancient Order of Hibernians" of the Whitehall Merchants followed. The color guard of the American Legion carried the red, white and blue United States flag and the American Legion banner. A member of A.O.H. carried its own banner. Following the green, white and yellow Irish flag and an Irish piper were the divisions of the order walking. Perky green berets, green blazers and ties predominated among the groups from Saratoga, Troy, Mechanicville, Glens Falls, Schenectady, Watervliet and Rutland. There was a woman's unit and a youth unit, all still stepping lively at the end, albeit with extremely tired feet.

The Fort Ann school band played in the line of march. Their crisp and colorful red and white uniforms and excellent performance showed much practice under the direction of Thomas Chapman.

The United States Navy was represented by two units: Albany's Sea Cadets in whites and St. Mary's of Glens Falls R.O.T.C. in blues, accompanied by a recruiting van from which movies were shown in Skenesborough Park. Following the parade

appropriately enough Whitehall looked like a navy base as Sea Cadets could be seen in groups throughout the community.

One of the floats was a simulated Pac-Man, a video game character piloted by Steve Philips, Jr., and entered by Tyke's Bait Shop. Junior Miss Cathy Trevellyan rode in the parade. The chamber of commerce Liberty float of the first ship of the United States Navy followed, in honor of the Hibernians shamrocks were attached to the ship.

The fire department was represented by Whitehall Volunteer Fire company's fire trucks, tank truck, chief's red car and by Skenesborough Central Volunteer Fire company's ladder trucks, a pleasing reminder of the fire protection Whitehall enjoys. The two ambulances of Skenesborough Emergency Squad included the newest purchase.

Six special cars carried state and local officials, the officers of the national state, local units, and the marshal.

The parade ended on Skenesborough Drive with ceremonies at the band stand in Riverside Park where national and state representatives of A.O.H. spoke commemorating the heroics of John Barry. Members of the Assembly, Robert D'Andrea and Joan Hague spoke briefly. Commanding Officer H. Lee of Albany Navy Recruiting district gave tribute to the Navy, past and present, naming Whitehall as an appropriate place for honoring a naval hero. Presentations were made to village and town officials by Congressional Aide Gordon Streeter. A plaque was given to Skenesborough Museum representatives.

Young Irish dancers in green and gold, performed with precision under the direction of Myra Jones. They were youths in the Saratoga-Troy divisions.

Visits to Skenesborough Museum and to the various food booths, of local organizations finished a beautiful day for a parade.

The Whitehall Times

June 27 1985

A Peculiar Hobby

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A clothesline business was carried on by a heavy shouldered fellow for about two years, evidently a kleptomaniac. He walked in darkness and stripped clotheslines at his pleasure.

The lack of choosing a specialty was perhaps his safety for a time, for every piece of cloth was his plunder, gentlemen's shirts, hats, sheets, pillow cases, and even foot gear. But the "stripper" was discovered by his avarice. On a Thursday night he came from Mrs. Coshburn's yard on Church Street past the railroad shanty at the end of that street, which was occupied by night watchman Parker, and on to J. H. Parke's house on School Street. Here he dropped his bag against a tree and started back, probably for more plunder, but he met David Bartholomew going to his work at the railroad depot. He walked along with him near the place where he had put the bag. Fate was against him for John Neuth of the gas works and George Collins were in sight and so he left the bag.

Supervisor Parker informed Officer Mulholland who had just arrived home from his night's work. He decided not to go after the thief but stayed in the vicinity till morning. Mulholland took the bag and faced the thief. In the bag was found sheets and pillow cases, ladies underwear and handkerchiefs, but they were marked "Schuyler. A search among people of the village brought out no known Schuyler. However a talk with Mrs. Coshburn revealed the fact that was her maiden name. She identified the marked items as her possessions.

In the house of the "stripper" were found enough merchandise to furnish a fancy goods store underwear, men's and women's sheets and pillow cases, shoes and stockings quilts, linens of all kinds including monogrammed napkins. For two days the plank road (Elizabeth Street) was black with men, women and children, identifying and claiming their goods, some of which had been missing for two years.

The thief was not a native Whitehaller but an immigrant from another place where his conduct was not exemplary. He was sentenced to four months on the clay banks, but the justice was persuaded to reduce the sentence to two months.

The editor of the paper advised Whitehaller to take in their washing while the sun still shone a matter of "closing the door after the horse was stolen."

The Whitehall Times **July 7, 1985**

Memorial Services of a Hero **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

To mark the 100th anniversary of the death of General Ulysses S. Grant July 23, 1885, services will be conducted at the Grant Cottage on Mt. McGregor. Invitations have been issued for a ceremony July 20, 1985 at 11 a.m. by the sponsoring organizations: sons of Union Veterans and Auxiliary, Wilton Heritage Society, and Saratoga-Capital District State Park Commission. The ceremony will be held on the grounds of the Mt. McGregor Correctional Facility outside the prison fence. The address will be given by Dr. John Y. Simon, Executive Director of the Ulysses S. Grant Foundation.

A custom of the later years of the 19th century and the first part of the 20th in many communities was to hold memorial services for state and national heroes. On the death of U.S. Grant such a service was held in Whitehall. Pre and post articles in the Whitehall Times describe the occasion.

The event was held 8 August 1885 at Hall's Opera House at 2 p.m. It was sponsored by a joint committee of citizens, Village officials, and Whitehall veterans. Chaired by Honorable H.G. Burleigh all businesses were closed and every one was expected to attend.

The singing was under the direction of the noted J. F. Clark with the choruses of all the churches. The songstress Carrie Broughton was accompanied by her sister Mattie, who was the organist on the organ loaned by W. H. Cooke.

The first observance was the tolling of the village bell answered by all the church bells for an hour, beginning at 9 a.m., the hour of Grant's funeral obsequies in New York

City. This was repeated at 1:30 p.m., the time when the funeral cortege reached Grant's tomb.

At 2 p.m. the Burleigh Corps with reversed arms marched from the Anderson Hall armory over the foot bridge to escort Tanner Post 263 G.A.R. to the Opera House where they received the salute of the veterans. All elderly people and veterans who personally knew Grant and served under him had reserved seats.

At the Opera House Burleigh Corps sat the right of the hall and Tanner Post at the left. The stage of the hall was draped with a picture of General Grant loaned by George Clemons of Dresden. The order of the program was: invocation by Rev. A. McMullen; opening remarks by Judge Potter, substituting for H. G. Burleigh; address by Rev. Joseph Zweifel; address by Judge Potter on the life of the hero and past president; reading of the hymn "To Thee O Country" by Rev. M. Lockwood; music; address by W. H. Tefft, editor of the Chronicle; benediction by Rev. H.W. Finch.

The ceremony lasted 2 1/2 hours. The editor of the paper suggested the citizens then knew "more than they wanted to" about the great hero. The bouquets were given by the lady graduates of the Union High school.

The Whitehall Times December 29, 1977

A Way of Saying Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

W. A. Wilkins, editor of The Whitehall Times during the 70's and 80's, had a paper of four sheets, 25 by 19 inches, to fill. On the third page each week, the second column was usually filled with quotes from other papers and observations made by him on a variety of subjects. Some were puns, some were observations, others were bits of philosophy, and some brought responses from exchanges. Many had to do with timely subjects of those years, like the hair switches, so these are a page from the past.

The reason why young ladies like naval officers is because they belong to the Marry-time service.

Yesterday we observed a bootblack "shining up" his customer's boots on S. K. Griswold & Co's, hay scales. This is what we call doing a small business on a large scale.

The church festivals are now engaged in serving up bowls of crackers and warm water with a vague suspicion that some poor little oyster had been bathed in it.

Young man, if you want to cutter fellow out, sleigh the girl.

We hear of a Fort Ann man who has patented a mill for cutting sausage meat, the power being furnished by hens. Is this the mill-hen-ium?

A lady's head is apt to run off the track when her switch gets misplaced.

Mr. Pints has four beautiful daughters, just a gallon of sweet lasses.

The shoemaker should be temperate in awl things, if he expects to last.

The road to wealth is "across lots" where a man can avoid the toll gates.

A baker doing business in Albany has "busted". He "kneaded" more dough to do business with.

In a line of shows, a cat show ought to pay best because there are so many felines in it.

There is only one thing easier to do than making good resolves, and that is breaking them.

The happiest lady is the one with long arms, because she can wear more buttons on her gloves than her next door neighbor.

It took several newspaper editors to reply to the first quip: A Columbus, Ga., lady has been found so kind-hearted that she will never beat an egg! And the additions 1. But she whips up her dresses. 2. Yes, she smacks her lips. 3. Yes, and she bangs her hair, too. 4. Also cuts her poor relations. 5. And murders her English. 6. And skins and mashes her potatoes. 7. And jams her raspberries.

A Whitehall young man says he does his courting according to parlor-mentary rules.

The drill of the Whitehall Artesian Well company had got to be a perfect bore — while the well itself is being "run into the ground.

The great trouble is that when a bad habit "gets seated" upon us, it always occupies a front seat.

Never look a gift mule in the heels.

A man will nurse an injury for years, while a favor received is allowed to shift for itself.

Noble thoughts played on paper shine like the bright belt of light left in the path of a shooting star.

The Whitehall Times **May 15, 1975**

The Railroad **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Whitehall has been a railroad town since 1848 when the Saratoga and Whitehall line reached here from the south, and "railroaders" as the people in that occupation have been known are an important, community-minded group of citizens. Delaware and Hudson Railway's contribution to the Capture Days:

The D&H Railway Spirit of Freedom engine and a 1916 baggage car proved an extremely popular display during Whitehall's Capture Days, May 9 and 10.

The 1776 engine (Spirit of Freedom), painted red, white and blue, was detoured from its occasional duty tours and was open for inspection at the old freight depot. Not only youngsters thrilled at being allowed in the cab of the train engine but adults had a long standing desire to see the inside of an engine satisfied.

The baggage car, newly painted, had railway displays prepared by Special Services Chairperson Ellen Freeman of the D&H and her assistant, Lewis Wasserman. The

exhibits contained a history of the company and many artifacts of railroad life — lanterns, keys, plaques, pictures.

Railroad retirees of Whitehall acted as hosts throughout the two days, being on hand to converse with the visitors, to explain the apparatus in the engine, and to set up and dismantle the exhibits from Skenesborough Museum. These men were Timothy Carroll, Adelbert Herron, Joseph Manell, Peter Sparano, Ralph Sparano and Charles Tinsley. Lurvey Rooker loaned two oil cans and a lantern for the display. Through the interest generated by the D&H exhibit, additional gifts were made to the Skenesborough Museum. Mrs. Charles Tinsley gave a nickel plated oil can individually owned by her father Alexander Pratt. His name is engraved on the can. Among some other items given anonymously were railroad hats, service pins, buttons and keys.

This railway display was initiated by D&H Vice President James Colpoys, a former Whitehaller.

Museum Gifts and Notes



Whitehall Museum (#04)
Photo by K. Bartholomew

The Whitehall Times
January 21, 1971

Cabooses
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



Museum Caboose (#13)
Photo by K. Bartholomew 2007

Ingenuity and history can be combined, as Nick LaPlaca is showing at the Redwood motel and restaurant. Three cabooses from the Delaware and Hudson Railway Company stand behind the restaurant waiting conversion into a club house for his children and two units for either light housekeeping apartments for tourists or housing for small businesses. Mr. LaPlaca will remind the public that Whitehall is still important in railroading.

A brief history of Whitehall's railroad is told on a keepsake plate sold in Skenesborough Museum, which also has a caboose on view for visitors to that place.

The plate lists the three roads that made Whitehall a terminal: Saratoga and Whitehall from the south, 1848; Rutland and Washington from the east, 1850; New York and Canada from the north, 1874. The plate goes on to read: "In 1850 Lake Station was opened at the Elbow where the line made direct connection with Lake Champlain steamers. The first, station on Canal Street, 1850, was superseded by the present one in 1892. At one time, Whitehall had 76 daily trains, freight and passenger.

"Through mergers the north south line through the village has been at various times the Delaware and Hudson Co., and now the Delaware and Hudson Railway Co."

The early picture on the plate looks south by the station and through the yard where 13 tracks can be counted. This was taken from a post card picture of Whitehall.

The Whitehall Times **April 29, 1971**

Museum Odds and Ends **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

The Cub Scouts of Fort Edward made their second annual trip to Skenesborough Museum last Saturday. They arrived on the Laurentian and returned by car. Their leader, Andrew Esposito, an employee of Scott Paper Company, values the attractions of the museum so highly that he plans a caravan visit in future years when the train trip is unavailable.

Forty-two scouts, accompanied by 11 adults and 12 members of their families, enjoyed a conducted tour of the museum given by Floyd Coleman and George Greenough, summer curators. Mrs. Carol Greenough "manned" the gift shop. The group had a picnic lunch on the front lawn and posed for their picture by the D. & H. caboose.

Skenesborough Museum is valued by its visitors for its portrayal of local history and the exhibits that depict Whitehall's part in the Revolution and War of 1812.

(H)

A reader requested the dimensions of the USS Whitehall. The 27-year-old vessel was 185 feet long, 33 feet wide and had a displacement of 903 tons.

(H)

Antique shops and shows often are fertile places for Whitehall items. Within a short time recently I acquired several. One is another type of champagne beer bottle with John O'Neil, Whitehall, N.Y., embossed on the side, and Putnam 27 on the bottom. It is molded with a blob top, lightning stopper and many bubbles. Another item is a yellow carnival punch cup with Whitehall, N.Y. painted across the top.

These items are interesting in themselves but two post cards found at the antique show in Glens Falls are more valuable from an historical viewpoint. These black and white pictures were evidently part of a series, for they were numbered 705 and 745. One shows the Boardman Street Bridge over the canal with a wooden fence on each side of the road and an unguarded board walk on the north side.

The second card is a panorama south view which shows the covered bridge over Wood creek, the new canal with an engine on the railroad bridge, the old canal and the road running south. In it also are a lumber yard and other now abolished buildings which show up in an enlargement. These pictures were taken circa 1912 when the latest canal was made. Another post card received is a panorama of the north end of the village entitled "A View from the Soldiers' Monument." It evidently was made up for E. P. Manville, a druggist whose store was on Broad Street (now North Main) in the 1890's. This view shows the mills on the east side of Wood creek. The three locks and the buildings shown on the west side of the creek are reproduced in the canal model in Skenesborough Museum constructed by Edward F. Farmer. These buildings were demolished so that machines could be used in constructing Lock 12.

Mrs. Catherine Senecal has given some small souvenir vases with pictures of Whitehall's armory and harbor scene to the museum. These souvenirs were made in Germany and sold in many of the local stores.

The Whitehall Times

June 13, 1971

Museum Opening

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Skenesborough Museum will open for its 13th season next Tuesday, June 15. The Museum force again will be Floyd Coleman, the Rev. George-Greenough, Louis Palmer and Mrs. Catherine Senecal. These people devote many hours of volunteer labor to the

Museum beyond their working time. It is no small task to ready the grounds, building and exhibits for the summer season.

For several seasons George Wolfe has given generously of his time and skill in assisting Mr. Coleman in preparing exhibits and making repairs in the Museum. These citizens give visual proof of their civic pride.

The Whitehall Times **January 25, 1972**

Recent Gifts and Requests **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

A recent gift to Skenesborough Museum is a scrapbook on Company I, Second Regiment, and its part in the War of 1898. This is a story in itself, but the register in which the news clippings are pasted is also interesting.

The part of the book not covered by the clippings contains entries of parts of the years 1894-1895 of Hall's hotel. This hotel stood on the site of the present Elks Club, also on the site of the earlier second Phoenix Hotel on Williams Street. At the top of each page is the admonition to guests: "Guests are hereby notified that the Proprietor will not be responsible for Valuables, Money, Jewelry, Etc., unless the same are deposited in the Safe in the Office. J. W. Galley, Proprietor."

The book has columns for name, residence, time, room and horse. The time column contains the letters B, D, S, evidently for breakfast, dinner and supper. The room column contains the number of the room apparently occupied that night. The accounts for the many Whitehall names of merchants entered — A. M. Nichols, William Frasier, Homer K. Martin, R. R. Davis, Samuel Stewart, William Fisher, T. A. Lillie, C. W. Hotchkiss, J. Potter, W. B. Eddy, William H. Tefft, G. L. Buel, and from Dresden, Orsamnes B. Smith, George L. Clemens and I. Bidwell. The number of daily entries varies from nine to 44.

People from out of town were from as far away as Chicago and as near as Fair Haven. Messages were left in the ledger like "Send mail to Cambridge" or "to Westport;" or for the Caledonian Minstrels "Next stand Fair Haven. Train leaves 2 a.m." Some guests advertised with their rubber stamp like "W. W. Calkins, General Agent Parsons 'Low Down' Wagon Co, Earlville, N.Y." Madam Nora's Glass Blowers numbered five and the Caledonia Minstrels 44. The horse column was vacant. The out-of-town people must have traveled by train.

Between each sheet of the register is a page of advertisements of Whitehall, most of them illustrated. Wood and Hitchcock (Fragnoli's) has a picture of a Gurney hot water heater to indicate its hardware business. H. J. Earl & Company's illustrations are a man's and woman's buttoned shoe. A. O. Williamson, near the R. R. station pictures its doors and sashes. E. W. Skeels (49 Chapin block Canal Street) contains a very fat porker.

Whitehall Row Boat Company shows C. H. Lotrace family row boat built at the rear of Hall's Hotel. One of these boats is in Skenesborough Museum. C. J. Vannier's has a freight wagon while A. S. Temple shows a fast horse and rig that could be rented

at the Yule House. Pike the Jeweler on Canal Street advertised the J. T. Buell trolling spoons with their picture along with his jewelry, guns and sporting goods.

Without pictures Whitehall Lumber Company lists its directors: B. W. Burleigh, H. G. Burleigh, W. N. Weeks, Tracy Cowen, and M. M. Manville. It added its steam mills for dressing and re-sawing. R. M. Witherbee at one time in the Dayton block and at another on Williams Street, spoke of its clothing. S. K. Griswold, its dry goods and groceries; Harding, Bascom & Co. (Barber's) listed its clothing and shoes with a slogan "One Price and Fair Dealing."

Seldom does a week pass without at least one request concerning genealogy for former residents of Whitehall, some asking for information as far back as the late 1700's. Formal town vital statistic records begin in 1881. Information before this must be found, if at all, in a variety of places. With the idea that Whitehallers can help with locating such information, often in their own family tree, requests will be placed in this column with the hope that information will reach the town and village historians.

Needed: Birth date of Susan Rebecca Mardin (Marden) born in 1844? or 1848? This request is shy of any cross reference material that might have given a clue like mother's maiden name or married name.

Wanted: Information on the Ward family; John b. 1765, Western Mass, m. Rachel Henderson b. about 1767 in Salem Mass. She was granddaughter of ----- McFarlane. John Ward had brothers Samuel, Silas, Israel, Segar and sister Hope. John and Rachel Ward's first children were born in Whitehall. Any Information on parents or ancestors is needed.

The Whitehall Times

June 29, 1972

14th Year for Museum

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Skenesborough Museum is open for its 14th year.

Before the official opening on June 24, the Museum was host to the Company of Military Historians, the John Thurman Historical Society and several youth groups. The picnic grounds are in constant use.

Exhibits are expanding and changing through the gifts of friends. A new exhibit this year is a collection of the Dorothy Parker family jewelry, representative of a 50-year period, 1850-1900. Locketts, hair jewelry, a beaded necklace, amber beads, gold baby ring, watch guard with chain, a small jewelry box and a silvered picture frame are among the items. The curators this year are Mrs. Catherine Senecal, Floyd Coleman and George Greenough.

The Whitehall Times
July 6, 1972

Museum Notes
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Four flags fly daily outside Skenesborough Museum These four flags show successive ownership of the area in which country we live.

There Is the French fleur de lis. This is the sign of the French kings. When French explorers claimed land for their country in this section, they laid claim to all the area that the St. Lawrence drained. This goes as far as Crandall Park in Glens Falls and includes the land of Whitehall.

When the British laid claim to land, their area covered Whitehall and extended Into Canada. The British Union Jack flew over this section in settlement and in war.

When the colonists first fought for their independence, they used the Grand Union flag. This has stripes and the St. George and St. Andrews crosses. Benedict Arnold used this flag on his two flagships In the Battle of Valcour. Mrs. Leddick also flies the Grand Union at Liberty Eatery.

After Betsey Ross designed our national banner with its stars and stripes, it became the official flag. The one flying at the Museum has the 50 stars.

These four flags show a history of land around Whitehall.

The Whitehall Times
July 13, 1972

Museum Notes
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Since 1848 the railroad has been a part of Whitehall's life. The exhibit of railroad items in Skenesborough Museum is a small but interesting one.

Some of the pictures are a sequence of five that shows the wreck north of Whitehall; D&H engine No. 210 that drew General U.S. Grant's funeral train with a Whitehall man, Willis G. Fisher, its engineer; a flyer of 1843 for the Ballston and Saratoga road explaining that stages would carry passengers on to Whitehall.

There's a passbook for 500 miles of travel on the road for D&H employee's use and a later card used for the same purpose; a certificate of 1855 for 15 shares of the Saratoga and Whitehall Railroad Company; various timetables and individual trainmen's daily records.

Out of date items on display include a window raiser used before air-conditioning; an engine oil can, a caboose lamp; a bell which was mounted in the cab with a cord running to the caboose for communication; and large iron couplers with pins.

An older commemorative plate with locomotives featured in its border contrasts with Whitehall's fourth commemorative keepsake plate.

Although the display is small, it is pleasant to see what used to be in the railroader's life. Additional items would be welcomed for the display.

The Whitehall Times
July 20, 1972

Museum Notes
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A display of framed pictures in the hallway of Skenesborough Museum is adding color and modernity to its atmosphere. But there's another note. All these are painted by the late Helen Sabourin, a former art instructor of Whitehall Central School who taught here for many years.

Sister Marie Therese has placed these pictures in the Museum with the idea that Miss Sabourin's former pupils and associates might enjoy them while recollecting their hours spent under her direction. Some may wish to purchase an original painting which can be done easily in the price range of \$20 to \$225.

The work is executed in five media: Oil, pastel, tempera, yarn, and water color. The water color is a still life of fruit and dishes in blues and grays. The yarn, entitled "The Three Musicians", is outstanding in its difference. Three medieval troubadours are worked in all the kinds of stitches to which woolen yarn can be put.

Among the oils are four portraits. The "Portrait of a Young Girl" is that of a local girl in a pink dress who posed for an art class. "An Old Man, An Old Woman, and Fair Lady" show the skill in depicting age tints. Scenes of actual places are "Lake Skaneateles, Lawn at Woodstock, and Falls and Mill at Woodstock". Other oils include several still lifes with flowers, bottles, and fruits. There are several compositions with trees.

Abstract enthusiasts will be charmed with the two pastels made from the moods while listening to musical compositions. The various shades and tints of colors in these works are assigned to certain pitches and instruments. The blues in the two pastels represent the flute, in an ethereal experience of sound. More of these will be hung later.

The display shows the variance of skills centered in one artist's work.

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The Quadrant Press is issuing a series of directories for the second year; Automobile Museum Directory, Restored Village Directory, American Revolution Bicentennial Directory, and the Nautical Museum Directory. This year Skenesborough Museum is listed in the Nautical Museum Directory. Arranged by state each museum has a full page's coverage with a picture and description of exhibits. Skenesborough Museum's picture is that of the, scale model of USS Saratoga executed to 1/4 inch scale by Edward Farmer who constructed the model of Whitehall's 1776 shipyard.

The Whitehall Times
July 27, 1972

Museum Notes
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Men famed in historical events have visited Whitehall for various reasons. Skenesborough Museum has hung pictures of some of them.

John Schuyler, grandfather of the Revolutionary General Philip Schuyler, stayed a short time at the head of Lake Champlain on Wood Creek in 1690 in one of the unsuccessful attempts of the British to strike against the French in Montreal. This occurred before Skenesborough was settled.

The entrance hall has a large portrait of Benedict Arnold, who saved our young republic in the early days of his military career. Because of his later treason, historians for our area were unwilling to give him any credit. As a result the events of much of the Revolution in the north have been, until recently, barely mentioned or omitted entirely.

Thaddeus Kosciuszko, a Polish general who aided the Americans, came to Skenesborough from Ticonderoga in 1776 with Benedict Arnold on one of his many inspection trips while the first navy was being built.

John Burgoyne, the British general, playwright, poet, occupied Skenesborough for three weeks while his troops cut a path to Fort Ann.

Marquis de Lafayette, the French lad made an American general, visited Whitehall on his famous tour of 1824-1825. He came from Burlington on the PHOENIX, was welcomed by the citizens, even to having rose petals strewn in his path. After dinner, he took carriage for Albany.

Several pictures of Thomas Macdonald hang in the War of 1812 display. This young man came to Whitehall first to inspect the shipyards and make plans for the navy's ships to be repaired. Two years later he stayed a month on the CONFIANCE in the harbor, a ship that he had captured at Plattsburgh.

This is a small gallery of portraits but one which points up more of Whitehall's history as told by Skenesborough Museum.

The Whitehall Times
August 3, 1972

Museum Notes
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A "Gay Nineties" exhibit has been arranged in Skenesborough Museum in a nine foot display case recently donated by Emerson Beckwith.

The title "Gay Nineties" is used for the articles that were in household use the later part of the 19th century. Featured on the shelf are albums that used to decorate a parlor

table --a red plush covered photograph album with flower embroidery; another with silver clasp open to show family pictures, an autograph album, and a framed daguerreotype.

Below this shelf are special items found in a well furnished bedroom of a late Victorian woman who was handicraft minded. A friendship quilt dated 1889 is arranged to show the hand painted or embroidered blocks that friends made; a pair of sheets embroidered with red feather stitching and a pair of pillow cases with wide knitted lace are also dated 1889. Close by are two other pieces of handwork --a quilted spread in rose design and a "comforter" cover in the "Cube" or "Baby Block" pattern.

These items are centered by a tin wash set of tub, jar and hot water container with a hand painted woodland scene. A busy housewife of today with all her labor saving devices can well wonder how these earlier homemakers found time to do all this handwork.

The Whitehall Times **August 10, 1972**

Museum Notes **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Really historic Items make up the fire department display In Skenesborough Museum.

Suspended from the ceiling are two pieces of fire fighting apparatus that are dwarfed by those of similar use now by the Whitehall and Skenesborough departments. Torrent No. 1, weighing a ton, was purchased in 1841 for \$1350 from a firm in Waterford. It was in use for 35 years. Its hand rails used in the pumping could accommodate at least three men on a side. It was raised to its present position by Albert Burby who did so much for the Museum in its early days. Many people watched as he swung from rope to rope in its ascent.

Behind that is a wooden hook and ladder that looks spidery in comparison with present Whitehall's metal one that extends so much farther. Both of these pieces of equipment were given to the Museum by the Whitehall Volunteer Department.

Can one imagine leaping into a life net from a burning building? There's a ten foot canvas one with iron rim and springs in the exhibit.

On the shelf and on the floor are smaller items: Hose No. 1 1834 leather shield; hats of Mahan Hose No. 2, Whitehall Steamer, and chief engineer of Whitehall Fire Department; bell from a fire engine; medals won at county meet competitions.

Parade bugles are interesting. Some are plain brass, some highly ornamented. The carrier of the bugle in parades had beautiful bouquets in the bell. In newspaper accounts of such parades certain or ladies organizations were always thanked for furnishing the flowers.

Over the display are pictures of former Whitehall firemen. The early history of Whitehall Steamer No. 3 is told in its organization poster. Its organization was 20 Dec. 1869. The first officers were elected 5 Jan. 1870 and the lists of charter and other members are listed.

Whitehall had many hose companies sponsored by local merchants and leading citizens. One famous one was the George Brett Jr. Hose Company. Hose companies raced each other to fires and held contests. The famous racing team of this one is pictured outside the fire-house when it was located in the present Village Building. If any logs of these companies are in existence in private families, the contents would make valuable additions to Whitehall's history.

The Whitehall Times **November 9, 1972**

Museum Gifts **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Interesting gifts come to Skenesborough Museum. This summer Miss Doris P. Jillson of Rutland, Vt., brought a book of music entitled "Pearls of the Parlor, Choice Selections of Songs from Eminent Composers," published by Horace Waters, New York city, in 1856. The book was formerly owned by Mary S. Jillson of the family of Edward H. Jillson. The Jillson family were early settlers of Whitehall.

Among the selections are "Ben Bolt or Don't You Remember," "The Low-Backed Car," "Old Folks at Home," and several polkas. A colored lithograph showing one of Saratoga's mineral springs accompanies the "Saratoga Schottisch."

The most interesting piece for us is "The Rechabite Grand Quick Step" as played by the Whitehall Brass Band at the first demonstration of the tribe composed and respectfully dedicated to Wallace E. Caldwell by J. J. Solomons and copyrighted in 1845.

Whitehall has had many bands in its history but for 1845 we have no records. Wallace E. Caldwell and his wife Corinth were residents of Whitehall at least for a time. He was received into the Presbyterian Church in November, 1838, and obtained a letter of dismission in May, 1841. Three years later he was received again into the church by a letter from a Presbyterian Church in Albany, July, and then left again in October, 1850.

Other Caldwells of the same period who lived in Whitehall were Eliza, wife of James G. Caldwell, buried in Williams Street Cemetery; Mrs. Levlina Caldwell, William Alonzo Caldwell, and Helen Caldwell.

Another gift to the Museum was composed of four copies of the Skeenic, the year book of Whitehall High School, for the years 1926 through 1929. These were given by Mrs. Ruth Foote Jackson who attended the high school at that time during her sophomore year she was assistant art editor; in her junior year, art editor; in her senior year she designed the cover.

The year book of those years contained the usual pictures of the classes, the departments, of the school and clubs and a large literature section. The illustrations introducing the sections of the book in 1929 are original block prints.

The most complete file of the Skeenic that I know of is in the library of the Whitehall Central School. There are gaps; it would be a good place to deposit that copy, if anyone has such, besides in the files of the Historical Society and town historian.

The Whitehall Times
March 1, 1973

Museum Gifts
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Whitehall Chronicle 02/10/1910

A valuable gift of newspapers from Mrs. Connie Carswell has been added to our files — the Whitehall Chronicle, 4 February 1910, and the 3 and 5 June 1926 copies of the Whitehall Evening News.

Newspapers beginning in the latter part of the 19th century have such content that they disintegrate very easily on exposure. These crumbling parts, however, can be copied before they disappear entirely and furnish more detail for Whitehall's history. Don't throw the parts away.

Specific items in this 2 February Whitehall Chronicle give the obituary of Civil War Veteran Hugh E. Dunning (father of Mrs. George Noyes); the brilliant silver anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Myron E. Wilsey and the impression of the west by W. D. Travis, a Whitehaller who went west, either to travel or settle as did so many of our Whitehall people.

Other items mention the weddings of Layola Hickey and Edward L. McLaughlin and Bessie Levada and William Ed. McQueen; the deaths of Mary Roxana (Carver) Carpenter, Mrs. Otis W. Horton nee Denton, and Katherine M. (Wright) McCollum of the White Church Wrights,

Among the advertisements is one for fifty girls to work in the Whitehall Shirt Company at steady and good wages. Echoes from Armory of Company I are in detail. Another interesting list is that of the organization meetings which include a picture of their seals. (Seventh grade pupils in Social Studies in recent years have had to search for these.)

Comparable to the present Chamber of Commerce February Ball was a Concert and Ball given in Griswold Hall that month. Its theme was "A Night in Japan" and the description and committees are given in detail.

The Whitehall Times
March 8, 1973

Museum Gifts
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Gifts from outside Whitehall often reach the Historical Society of Whitehall. This happened recently when two came from Mrs. Kathryn McClarty of Horseheads. One is a copy of William L. Stone's "Washington County, 1901", a book that is becoming scarce. Part of this book is devoted to biographies of Washington County people.

The second gift is an issue of The Northern Post, printed in Salem 13 March 1806.

It is in remarkable condition, almost like a piece of cloth. The head contains this quotation, "I come the herald of a noisy world: news from all nations lumbering at my back." Most of the news items have to do with mortgages throughout the county. One describes a plot of land which belonged to Solomon Carver on a part of Skene's Patent. It is signed by Alexander Webster who surveyed Skene's lands when they were confiscated. The particular plot is in the Town of Hampton.

Washington County Historical Society is seeking biographies to update materials that have been printed in earlier books for a Bicentennial project. People prominent in all walks of life will be included and sketches will be welcomed for the list. Stone's contains these from Whitehall:

Emmett J. Gray, William J. Boyd, Robert H. Brett, James Doren, Sherman W. Fitch, Gustavus A. Griswold, Edward Delwin Hendrick, George P. Johnson, Amos Loomis, John J. Manville, Robins Miller Wetherbee, Benjamin H. Bascom, Charles A. Doren, Michael C. Donehue, Evander M. Finch, Samuel K Griswold, Louis Hyatt, James P. King, Rev. Thomas M. McLoghlin, Homer B. Martin.

Sardis Mitchell, John O'Neil, Edwin C. Pratt, Frank C. Ryon, Walter A. Warner, Hon. Henry G. Burleigh, George D. Cull, Charles W Harding, C. A. Rathbun, Edward P. Newcomb, Thomas A. Paterson, John S. Rogers, John Sullivan, Dr. Harry P. Wisely, Charles H. Broughton, Luke H. Carrington, Sherman F. Harlow.

Some of these are not too long and could be added to.

Request from Texas: Genealogical research on Kimball ancestors; William McKenzie Kimball, born 5 October 1824 at Whitehall; father Timothy Kimball; mother Abi Baldwin.

The Whitehall Times **May 5, 1973**

Museum Gifts **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Barber's Chair

A recent gift to Skenesborough Museum is a barber chair that must be around 100 years old. With black leather seat and reclining back that has seen wear, with hardwood side pieces, and a metal movable footrest, it delights the small fry for sitting in an "old barber chair" and the adults who can remember when such chairs "looked like that."

This particular chair has been given to the Museum by Joseph Martucci who now has a shop at 212 Broadway. From him some details in the life of this chair have been gleaned.

By 1928 Larry Doty and Frank Martucci (Joseph's father) were in partnership in a barber shop in the Flatiron building at the corner of Main and Church streets before the railroad crossing elimination in 1933. Frank Martucci bought his partner's share of the business and went to Saunders Street in the Gray Building (Renois Building) where Fred Rondeau now works. Joseph Martucci came to Whitehall In 1937, learned his father's trade, and set up in business at his present place.

In 1940 Fred Rondeau bought the barbershop equipment of Albert Choppy and set up in business in the place on Saunders Street. At that time Joseph moved his father's equipment from the Saunders shop and placed it in storage on First Avenue. Recently he donated the chair to the Museum.

Through this bit of research other barber's names came to light through information from Mrs. Grace Newell and Daniel Whitehead. At one time in Terrytown the corner of First Avenue and Main Street (Broadway) was known as Clute's Corner.

John Clute had built the structure that is still there. His son Arnold became a barber and on the south side of the store next to First Avenue a triangular one story addition was constructed for his shop. When Arnold Clute went to the railroad to work, his place in the barbershop was taken by Albert Choppy who had learned the trade from Arnold. Later Albert moved to a shop on Second Avenue and it was this equipment that Fred Rondeau bought to set up his shop on Saunders Street.

The Whitehall Times December 6, 1973

Museum Gifts Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Order of Railroad Conductors and Railroads

Various forms, papers and reports have been added to Skenesborough Museum library by Carol Senecal. These have to do with the organization of the Order of Railway Conductors and Railroads.

Among the collection are a set of maps of the railroad system throughout the United States in 1905, three copies of Proceedings of the Grand Division of the Order of Railway Conductors, rules and rates of pay in train and yard service on the principal railroads in 1900, and accident bulletins of 1904 to 1907. Pertaining especially to Whitehall is a minute book which lists the attendance of members from 1904 to 1926 in the Order of Railroad Conductors of America, and cards indicating members of its Mutual Benefit department. Interesting is the card of songs that evidently was standard for the organization. It contains verses for organization, installation, welcome, opening and closing of meetings, and a funeral dirge.

These are the members listed for 1904 to 1926:

J. M. Atwood, H. A. Adams, F. C. Austin, Geo. Busseno, G. W. Bell, H. P. Brown, M. Bracey, L. W. Benjamin, O. S. Benjamin, Albert Bancroft, William Bender, M. D. Baker, Fred Carswell, James Collins, J. D. Beattie.

R. M. Carson, M. A. Church, Dan J. Cameron, Chas. W. Compton, D. Corbett, F. N. Donnelly, J. H. Donnelly, Chas. Dennison, C. F. Eusprey, J. Gully, James Grady, Fred Gibbs. Geo. A. Hale, J. Hogan, John Hammon.

T. J. Hollaron, A. Hoyal, C. Harrigan, Dan Humphrey, M. E. Hart, Warren Herron, E. A. Hauerwas, I. E. Hughes, T. E. Huestis, M. D. Ikenhoffer, Milo Johnson, William M. Jones, J. Keenan, Truman H. Kilburn, B. D. Lindly.

E. G. Lalor, W. H. McCormick, John Miles, R. J. McQuillan, J. McKinney, J. M. McCullough, T. J. McImorey, Michael Norton, J. H. O'Brien, G. C. Paine, H. C. Perkins, M. E. Parris, C. O. Rounds, M. H. Rounds, C. F. Redding.

J. C. Royal, J. E. Rhoads, Geo. F. Scott, Ezra Tario, John Tario, W. J. Toulman, W. C. Tedford, Benjamin Van Acker, P. J. Whellon, H. W. Wilkinson, H. F. Wade, L. R. Wheeler, J. A. White, Ira E. Wilson, J. M. Weed.

Experience ripens our judgment—teaches us how to choose the best life has to offer

The Whitehall Times **April 25, 1974**

Museum Gifts **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Anniversary Bells: Mr. and Mrs. George Brown, April 27.

Who remembers Babbitt's Borax Soap; the Standard Laundry Soap of America for over eighty-five years; its trade mark an oval with B. T. Babbitt's Best Borax Soap inside? Or a shorter time afterwards Colgate's Octagon All Purpose Soap — for removing hard-go-get-out spots from the family wash and help you keep your stoves, cabinets and woodwork sparkling clean? These two cakes were brought to the Museum to add to the household section of articles by Frank Bessette.

Mr. Bessette also donated a picture of the drum corps of American Legion Post No. 83 as it stood before the Armory door in 1923. He was able to identify most of the members.

A medicine bottle has been added to the Whitehall bottle collection by Mrs. Ethel Van Tassell. A regulation size, it has in raised letters Lawrence Corbett Apothecary, Est'd 1856, Whitehall, N.Y. His drugstore was in the block between Division and High Street. He is not listed in the Atlas of 1866, but often all names were not listed in earlier books, just those that subscribed to the publication. In the Whitehall Gazetteer of 1871 his business is listed as Corbett, Eddy & Kingsley and in the directory of 1892 he lived at 10 Boardman Street.

There are several items in the collection of papers donated recently by Leonard Nichols that add to our data and social life of the village; a formal invitation to a concert and ball at Rush's Hall, assessment \$1.00; a small card of handkerchief flirtations that youth must have had fun with; an 1899 baptism certificate and an 1899 commencement invitation; a lovely pansy decorated 1908 calendar with a religious theme; and autographed calling cards.

A Sanborn map of Whitehall for 1907 and one of 1917 revised in 1936 by C. H. Souter were presented by Mrs. Jean O'Brien. Just a quick glance at the hotels, stores, and business locations shows their value to our history.

Items given by William Donaldson contained advertisements for some household products, many of them small handout cards: Star Soap; Swift's Ham on a metal disk; Warner's Safe Yeast; G. W. Osborne's card for Tin, Copper, and Sheet Iron Ware; bottle label from C. H. Broughton's drug store; and an 1883 line of wagon parts, and stoves sold at Wood and Hotchkiss.

From newspaper clippings preserved on the history of Herbert Bartholomew's legislative record and given by Mrs. Helen Bartholomew; other items on Whitehall are gleaned. The younger folks will not remember nor have they heard that Whitehall had its first plane descend on the old race track in East Whitehall 24 July 1920. This was on the Mortimer Wood farm. The out of town pilots stayed to take passengers up for \$10 a ride for 10 minutes. A description of the village as a vantage point for new industries gives the same inducements that are named today. And one article is headed "Women Are Big Factor in Town's Progress.

The Whitehall Times June 27, 1974

Museum Gifts Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Anniversary Bells: Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Farrell, June 28; Mr. and Mrs. Francis Norton, June 28; David and Mary Battease, June 28; Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Kinney, June 28; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hurley, June 30; Agnes and Lawrence McMore, June 30.

Skenesborough Museum is the recipients of 80 prints concerned with the history of the United States Navy.

Last Friday three members of the Glens Falls Navy Recruiting Station — A.E.C. Stephen Power, H.T.C. Frederick Sharp, E.O.1 Kenneth Woodard — while visiting the Museum made the presentation of these difficult to obtain series to members of the Museum committee.

The prints are reproductions of paintings and posters, beautiful in color and suitable for framing, about 16 by 20 inches in size.

Three sets entitled "Our Navy in Action" are taken from oil paintings hung in collections throughout the country and show famous ships, battles, and the origin of well known sayings, like "If the fellow wants to fight, we won't disappoint him;" and the scene of action when the United States flag was first recognized on the sea.

Two other sets trace the uniforms of the Navy from the first ones issued by the Naval Committee in 1776 to those of 1961 — from the blue coats, short breeches and waistcoats to the ones we are familiar with today. Included are the costumes worn by Navy nurses from the long sweeping dress and capes of 1905 to the trim uniforms of today.

The other set contains re-productions of recruiting posters, appealing to patriotism in war, to the advantages of training in valuable education and travel. One interesting plea is for that of binoculars of private citizens on loan to the government in World War II.

As soon as these can be readied, they will be on display in the Museum.

At Saratoga Fair

Exhibits illustrating the part Whitehall has played in our nation's naval history will be on view in the U.S. Navy Department's display at the Saratoga Fair 28 June to 7 July.

Skenesborough Museum is loaning some items that can be safely transported to Saratoga for the display that will carry the story of the Navy from its earliest days to the present.

Since Whitehall has been concerned with two wars, the Revolution and the War of 1812, the items will be of those periods: Powder horn sword, British uniform, signal gun, flags, models ships, mortar and portrait of "Captain" Edward Farm who made so many of the Museum's authentic models

People from Whitehall will be in attendance at the Navy exhibit to answer questions and give a pamphlet that tells a short story of Whitehall.

The Whitehall Times **January 30, 1975**

Museum Gifts **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Skenesborough Museum has received from the Director of Naval History, Edwin B. Hooper, U.S.N., Ret., 20 pictures entitled "Naval Actions in the American Revolution. These are made from original paintings showing the actions of the Continental Navy and other naval forces which fought the war against the British.

Unfortunately no painter has depicted the action in Skenesborough when the first ship of the Navy was captured or any action in the building of the fleet in 1776. So the first in the series is the capture of HM Schooner Margaretta 12 June 1775, nearly a month after Benedict Arnold's sailors and marines captured the Enterprise at St. John's.

Then comes Hanna, first ship of Washington's Navy in action 2 September 1775, nearly a month after the action of May 18 at St. John.

These are followed by Lee Captures Nancy 29 November 1775; First Fleet Operation of the Continental Navy 3 March 1776 under Commodore Esek Hopkins; Lexington Captures Edward 7 April 1775, the first one being the American ship. Fireships Attack HMS Phoenix and HMS Rose 16 August 1776 when fireboats were set fire and allowed to drift toward the British ships. The Battle of Valcour, Lake Champlain 11 October 1776 is the familiar one under which the names of the first United States Fleet ships are named. Capture of Mellish, 12 November 1776 depicts the capture of a British ship loaded with clothing which eventually found its way to Washington's men.

Surprise Captures the Harwick Packet 3 May 1777" shows the American flag "Don't Tread on Me" in use. Destruction of HMS Augusta in Delaware River 23 October 1777 cut the British supply line for Pennsylvania.

The eleventh in the series is The First Recognition of the Stars and Stripes 14 February 1778 when John Paul Jones received a salute from a French ship.

These 20 pictures will be, placed in Skenesborough Museum for the summer season with other prints that have been presented for display.

Another street name has cropped up that we have not heard of before. Atherton Street connected School Street and Gilmore Street. The line is clear on the aerial map. This line is just east of the lots where George and E. C. Hall built their mansions on West

Hill. Their father's name was Dr. Atherton Hall. Could that have been the connection? The doctor died in 1881.

The Whitehall Times

March 6, 1975

Museum Gifts

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Souvenir books, picture books, scrap books —whatever the name applied may be — were the result of the desire to preserve pretty things in the "olden days". Adults took leisure time to paste these keepsakes into large books, often an old ledger or what looked like a dull old book. I've removed pastings from, a rare documentary history book, thus saving both the clippings and the valuable text.

Mrs. Mary Saunders is a modern picture book maker. In her leisure time she has made scrap books containing colorful pictures, gathered from a variety of common sources — birds, animals, interesting holiday scenes — and donated the books to Skenesborough Museum. During this winter season she has completed six such books which will be sold in the museum this coming summer. Visitors to the museum are ready customers for the books.

The Whitehall Times

April 10, 1975

Museum Gifts

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Several gifts for the historical files often come close together. This occurred recently and as always has a fascination. One is a copy of a telegram expressing regrets of T. J. Harkins of the railroad that he could not attend a dinner in honor of Willis G. Fisher who had 70 years of membership in the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. , With this is a paper containing the signatures of the members attending the dinner, among them J. F. Shayne, General Chairman of the organization; A. M. Wolven, General Secretary Treasurer; C. H. House, Superintendent of the Champlain Division; F. R. Griffin, Jr., Yardmaster of Whitehall; A. C. Woodard, Road Foreman of Engines, and Homer Knott, Assistant Road Foreman of Engines, and thirty other members from Whitehall.

A copy of "The Delaware and Hudson Company Bulletin" of 1 March 1925 with these papers contains an article on Mr. Fisher, describing his experiences on the railroad. Coming from a railroad family, his father and three brothers in the same line of work, he entered service at 15 years. He was the engineer on the Grant Funeral train from Saratoga to Albany in 1885. The description of the draped engine and cars is interesting. This

material was given by Mrs. Helen Fisher of Ilion. There is also "Rules of the Operating Department," 1906, of the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad Company.

"Wait Until You See My Madeline," sheet music copyright of 1921 was presented by Mrs. Catherine Senecal. Mrs. Carol Senecal gave two Whitehall Chronicles of 1912 and 1913. Although in bits and pieces the contents are of value. One article is on the history of Whitehall's fire companies, engines and members.

"The discovery of a new dish does more for the happiness of mankind than the discovery of a star" said Brillat Savarin, a famous chef. This is a part of the Pinesbridge Farm Gazette of Ossining in 1939, which extols and advertises the smoked Turkey of John Taber, who developed the product. Although not of Whitehall, ways of preparing products are always sought, especially things of the "olden times." This paper was given by Lester Gordon who also presented some advertising posters of the Grand Military Ball held in the state armory, Thanksgiving night, November 30, 1916, with Doring's Second Regiment Band of Troy. An exhibition drill by the company, a grand march, and dancing until 2 a.m. cost \$1.00 per couple.

Post card views of Meyers Castle are quite common showing several sides of the grounds, but Robert Fagan has given one that is taken from School Street looking up at the building with a view of the wall laid up in large blocks of stone. Mr. Fagan labeled a picture of a play given at the Presbyterian Church in 1905 or 1906. Of the 35 actors and actresses he was able to name all but four. Plays were an important part of the entertainment produced in Whitehall up to the advent of TV.

Another interesting picture presented to the files recently is, one, of the Grand Union Hotel. Yes, Whitehall had a hotel of that name. A four-story building, it stood on the site of the present Chase Market. It furnished a two-horse convenience for travelers from the train, shown also in the picture.

The Whitehall Times

October 2, 1975

Museum Gifts

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

They may be dusty, dirty, torn, with leather covers crumbling, but old account books are valuable for local history. They tell stories of businesses, individuals and people who lived in a place at a certain time.

Recently Floyd Mason saved three day books of a hardware store in Whitehall. The owner's name was not given in the books but the dates. 1876-1882, show that the store could have been Half & Kittredge, T. S. MacLachlin or Wood & Hotchkiss. The last one moved from the corner of Saunders and Canal streets to the corner of Division and Canal streets in this period.

Entries are interesting. You wonder why A. C. Hopson, an architect and builder, bought a thimble, until you discover H. T. Gaylord bought a chimney thimble.

Lighting and heating details are told. Mrs. Jane Gilbert paid \$1 to have her stove cleaned, blacked and set up. J. H. Manville paid 50 cents to have his furnace and pipe

cleaned. A globe chimney for a lamp cost 50 cents while a plain one cost 10 cents. A whale hand lamp cost 60 cents while eight lamp wicks were 25 cents.

You wonder why the Union School bought so many door locks. You find names of companies not otherwise common in local accounts — McLaughlin & Higgins, Baltimore and Clemons. You find that few accounts are entered in women's names. Did men do all the shopping?

This past week Charles Rawitz saved 11 account books that cover periods from 1828 to 1886, all books of I. C. Griswold, one of the many Griswold merchants who conducted business in Whitehall and owned much property.

The day books do the same as the hardware store books but there are additional kinds. A "flour book" details the names of individuals who bought barrels or half-barrels of flour, the price slowly rising from \$4.75 in January 1852, to \$10 by the latter half of 1854.

The Whitehall Mill Company "toll book" gives the grist and toll for 1884-85. Again it is accounts of individuals with a baffling entry of "Stranger" quite often. A second section summarizes the kinds of grain — buckwheat, rye, barley, corn, wheat, provender.

Mr. Griswold's "rent book" of 1883-85 shows the extent of his property dealings, rent being anywhere from \$2 to \$32, depending on the year and kind of business. Some accounts end with "Moved Out." The ledger shows double entry with the cross references looking like code and all accounts carefully ruled. This book had a bonus in that advertising cards of merchants in Albany, Troy and New York were inserted.

The 1828 book gives the familiar names of Melancton Wheeler, B. L. Dibble, S. T. Jillson; the 1852, Lemma Bartholomew, Robert Coleman, L. W. Falkenbury; the 1884, Frank Fish, Ed. Loomis, J. J. Pangmon; the 1844, William Merriam, John Sisco and Served Fish.

Old account books are valuable, especially when much of a town's history has been lost by fire.

The Whitehall Times **January 8, 1976**

Museum Gifts **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Gifts are constantly being made to Skenesborough Museum that illustrates its theme: Whitehall — Navy, Lake, Canal and Railroad. Following are some recent ones.

A desk and chair from the estate of Hermon E. Sullivan presented by Hilda and Charles Sullivan is on loan. The chair, made of beautiful woods, will be a lovely piece of furnishing. Mr. Sullivan was a prominent musician in Whitehall, both vocally, a basso, and instrumentally. He was a captain of Company I and rode a white horse in parades. This chair is from his tenure in Albany as a Sergeant at Arms.

Bottles of industries are an item of interest in collections. Mrs. Catherine Senecal donated a quart milk bottle from the Valley View Dairy of T. M. Butler's and a pint bottle from I. R. Wood's Elmwood Farm Dairy. The quart bottle has painted on one side a view

of a farm house and on the reverse a slogan "Cooperate with those who serve you" with a picture of a fireman, a milkman and a policeman.

A clear glass seltzer bottle in fine condition from J. C. Cunningham's bottling works was added to the Museum's collection by George Brown. When the Emergency Squad building was constructed, a fill from the old canal bed yielded a cache of bottles from the same company. Ray Greenwood donated two of these seltzer bottles from this cache, one a green and one a clear color. He included several blob tops unmarked bottles, also.

Newspapers, even a single issue, are so important for historical material and Whitehall's files have wide gaps in them. Mrs. Very Monty gave two issues of The Whitehall Times. The 15 February, 1917, which still had advertisements on the front page, told of the community's buying \$100 bonds of the New Silk Mill, the credit largely given to the Business Men's association, a forerunner of the Chamber of Commerce. "When the test came, Whitehall was there with the goods" said the article. Ray Greenwood added two issues. An editorial in the 22 September, 1932, issue praised the community for its part in raising necessary funds for work relief. "It is times like these (depression) that we learn that we really are a community joined together by a common bond."

A scrapbook of the first 51 columns of Clarence Holden's Local History Sketches is a gift from Herbert Belden. The historian's files of these are not complete, and several of these help fill in the gaps.

An anonymous gift from outside town is an oil portrait of Isaac V. Baker. This is an addition to the portraits of the Comstock oil paintings already in the Museum. Isaac V. Baker was related in marriage to the Comstocks. Born in 1813, he lived to be 81 years old. During his life he was a business man in the two communities of Comstock and Whitehall in canal and lumber interests. He was a state senator from 1873-5 and from 1880-1881 and Superintendent of State Prisons from 8 March 1882-13 May 1887. He died in 1894.

The Whitehall Times February 12, 1976

Museum Gifts Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Burgoyne's Portrait

What a great addition to local history is Dr. Alan Bartholomew's information about Hatch Hill and the Falkenbury family. So much history like this must be in family archives waiting for some interest to research and write it. There must be descendants of such Whitehall Revolutionary soldiers with the names Fuller, Bigelow, Warner, Harvey, Blanchard, Barrett and many more. Now is an apt time to do this research and not be considered "an historical historian." It's Bicentennial time.

Research, as I've often said, is fascinating and full of surprises. Consider the picture of General Burgoyne in Skenesborough Museum. In obtaining portrait copies of

people who visited Skenesborough during the Revolution, I sent to the Library of Congress. Among these was one labeled General Burgoyne.

This past fall David Martin of West Chazy visited the museum. A collector of pictures of General Burgoyne of Saratoga, he was much interested in our picture and went home to research. This included letters to the British museum and further comparing of pictures. His findings he sent in a recent letter to Rev. Greenough.

Our Burgoyne picture is that of a cousin of the Saratoga Burgoyne. An explanation of the labeling, before the cousin became a general, was that the artist just relabeled his portrait General instead of Colonel to capitalize on the occasion when the Saratoga General returned to England and was important in the news.

Mr. Martin has provided Skenesborough Museum with a picture of the Saratoga John Burgoyne which will replace his cousin's.

This confusion is reminiscent of the story of Philip Skene. Some early researchers did not realize there were these soldiers leaving at the same time with the same name. Thus early historians give erroneous material of Philip Skene of Skenesborough which is still being repeated.

Benjamin Gaylord of Bar Harbor is completing his family tree, tracing descent from Revolutionary soldier Hezekiah in Vermont through the line who lived in Whitehall and married into the Martin family, another Revolutionary family.

The Whitehall Times

June 3, 1976

Museum Gifts

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

An Appreciation

As a member of the Skenesborough Museum since its origin in 1959, the year of Whitehall's Bicentennial, I am appreciative of the addition to the museum that has been made possible through the Judge John J. O'Brien Memorial. This added facility provides a greater opportunity for added cultural programs for the community.

Through the research in history that I have done over the years, I am aware of only two memorial gifts to the Town and Village of Whitehall. One is the Isaac C. Griswold library by the late Mrs. Anne Manville, a descendant of the Griswold family, and this memorial wing to the memory of John J. O'Brien by his many friends and admirers in the town and in the state.

Whitehall is a good place to live. Fortunes have been amassed here. Famed people have lived here. The place has a healthy climate; its weather conditions are fairly free from disasters. It has scenic beauty; it has history; it has resources of many kinds. But above all it has people — people with many ethnic origins, with abilities of many kinds and initiative; with interests that range from the spectator type to the active participants, socially and politically.

These people vary in their respect and loyalty to their town and village from those who do not have a good word for it (those who will not give of themselves for others) to those who cannot wait to return if they go away. Happily the majority are those who want to bring up their children in a good place; who want to live among friendly groups; who want to contribute to the life of a community that is the basis of life in the country.

A good exercise in appreciation is to list all the items that one can think of about Whitehall. One will find, I believe, that the good aspects will far outweigh any adverse.

The Whitehall Times

October 6, 1976

Museum Notes

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A Washington County Display of Skenesborough Museum

Skenesborough Museum is featured in the display case in the Washington county building foyer in Fort Edward for the month of October.

To illustrate the museum theme, "Whitehall — Navy, Lake, Canal, Railroad," items were chosen from the exhibits that show the facets of this theme.

The Navy articles include a model of the gundelo Philadelphia of 1776. This ship was constructed in Skenesborough Harbor under Benedict Arnold's supervision and now rests in the Naval Museum of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington. With the model are displayed a picture of Arnold, a copy of the Sloop Enterprise payroll which he prepared showing the service of sailors and marines from May 3, 1775, and a newspaper clipping account of the Philadelphia after it was raised by Captain Hagglund.

The lake boat era is depicted with items from the Battle of Lake Champlain in September, 1814. A boarding cutlass and Thomas Macdonald's sextant also represent a Navy part of the theme.

A model of a canal boat moored at dock and a picture of tows in Whitehall Harbor pick up the canal theme. A lady's traveling basket used by a young girl traveling from Whitehall to Buffalo in the 1830's is an interesting addition. The 80-year-old donor's picture accompanies it.

The railroad items are a conductor's, hat, a railroad lantern, an oil can, and a heavy iron coupling link with pin.

Each part of the theme is demonstrated in the various exhibits in the Museum. The railroad exhibit could be enlarged greatly.

The Navy period occurred during the Revolution and the War of 1812 and the lake boat era from 1809 to 1874. The canal era began in 1817 and the railroad era in 1848.

The Washington County Office of Historic Preservation and Tourism changes the exhibits in the foyer periodically to better inform the public of the history and attractions that Washington County offers.

The Whitehall Times
December 8, 1977

Museum Gifts
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

"Marines in the Revolution"

This past week I received this letter:

The Director
Skenesborough Museum
Whitehall, New York 12887

Dear Sir:

A retired Marine recently sent us a brochure from your museum. Upon reading it, we felt you would appreciate having two of our bicentennial publications relating to your area. We are sending under separate cover a copy of *Marines in The Revolution* (Washington: GPO, 1975), which contains a section on Arnold's Champlain Fleet, and also a copy of a print depicting part of the Fleet's action.

While we do not recognize Skenesborough as "The Birthplace of the Marine Corps" — that distinction being reserved for Philadelphia — you will note that we are well aware of the contributions of Arnold's Navy and Marines.

Sincerely,
J. E. Greenwood
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Deputy Director of
Marine Corps History

Accompanying the letter was the book and a print — Major Charles Waterhouse's *Defeat on Lake Champlain, 13 October 1775*. The print will be framed to hang in the Navy Room of Skenesborough Museum and the book will be added to the reference library.

Under the original "Payroll of the Sloop Enterprise from the 3d May (1775) in the National Archives in Washington, D.C., is written "oldest pay roll of American Navy and Marines. The Sloop Enterprise was captured at St. John's May 18, 1775, by American soldiers, sailors and Marines from the Schooner Liberty ..." This was noted in the thank-you letter sent to Colonel Greenwood.

The introduction of the book answers the question, "What is a Marine?" in this sentence: "He is a soldier who serves at sea on a vessel of war either as part of its crew or as part of a military expedition under naval supervision." The definition certainly describes the soldiers who accompanied the sailors on the first ship of the United States Navy LIBERTY armed for a specific act of war, the capture of the Enterprise at St. John's. The pay roll was eventually paid by Congress.

In 491 pages this beautiful book, 11 ½ inches by 9 ¼ inches, tells a story from 10 November 1775 to 18 March 1794. It contains reproductions of original oil paintings, photographs of famous historical persons, maps and many delightful line drawings. Biographies of Continental Marine officers are thoroughly documented in one of the

appendices. In others are pay rolls of Marine companies, diaries of Marine officers, and letters.

Chapter 2 gives the story of Arnold's first fleet and battles on Lake Champlain. The print "Defeat on Lake Champlain" depicts the ships entering Arnold's Bay in his flight from the British. It accompanies this chapter as do Thomas Hart's Benedict Arnold, Peale's Horatio Gates, the map of the battle lines at Valcour, and a depiction of the Royal Savage.

This is a book that can be perused in sections, according to the theater one is interested in, and can be the source of many long hours of pleasant reading.

The Whitehall Times

May 8, 1978

Museum Notes

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

First Visit of the Year

During mid-term vacation a school group visited Skenesborough Museum. When told that the place was cold and not in the "pink" of condition from dust, the seven girls from John Jay High school, Katonah, decided they wished to visit just the same.

Under their school adviser, Mrs. Dorothy Chary the girls had earned money for a northern trip on which they stayed at a home in Chestertown, bought and cooked their food, and visited places of interest in the area. They really "did" the museum — listening, asking questions and taking pictures. Although such an advance group is not often taken through the museum, it was a pleasure for the guides to note their reactions and hear their favorable comments.

Our Streets

In leafing over some papers I came across a game that was once played at a meeting. The answers to the first list of questions will be quite easy. There may be two or three answers that will fit. A later list will be harder and perhaps some streets may not be located:

What street:

1. was named after a person who bought much of Whitehall's confiscated property?
2. was named after an illustrious visitor in 1824?
3. was named for Whitehall's founder?
4. was once called Canal Street?
5. was named for an explorer and a lake?
6. was called Academy Street?
7. was called South Bay Street?
8. was named for a family containing a judge and a vice admiral?
9. was renamed Maple Street?
10. was named because of a geographic feature?
11. was named after a family of lawyers?
12. was named for one of our principal occupations?

13. was named for a geographical direction?
14. disappeared into Broadway?
15. has the same name as a former school?
16. was named for a French General?
17. was named for the wife of a lawyer?
18. was named for a large landowner in the southern part of town?
19. was named for a geology phenomenon?
20. was named for a beautification project?

The Whitehall Times
May 31, 1979

Museum Gifts
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



Recently Mrs. Jane Smith presented to Skenesborough Museum some pictures that her father, William B. Inglee, Sr., collected. He was interested in Whitehall and its history.

County firemen used to hold annual firemen's conventions, taking turns in the various towns. At least three of these were held in Whitehall. The business buildings were decorated in great style and all turned out for the parades. This one shows the convention of 1904, one that is not as common as the one usually seen. It shows the hose

carts in front of the early Flatiron building by the locks. The Western 'Union Telegraph sign is clear. As are the many telephone poles that used to line the streets. A second one is a scene of Williams Street from the present LeClaire home to Wheeler Avenue. The elm' trees were fairly young and the houses were enclosed with white fences. A third is an excellent view of the transportation building with tug boats in front.

The fourth is an 1874 school picture in front of the Bell School at the corner of Blount and Lamb streets, still standing. Only the doorway and a part of the brick building are shown. Boys and girls alike posed with arms crossed across their bodies. Two lads are formally dressed in long pants, vests and coats. One has a watch chain prominently shown. These are a valuable addition to our collections of early pictures.

Some time ago Myles Hollister added to our collection of artifacts with a flax scutcher. The Hollister farm is an old one in Whitehall and this one evidently raised flax, as was common in earlier days. The implement is only 20 inches long, much shorter than any I have seen before, and five inches wide. The rows of spikes alternate in rows of six and seven. Over these the flax reeds were thrown and drawn to separate the fiber from the long flax strings. These spikes are dangerously sharp. For this reason evidently a small box was made to fit over them, for stepping on them would cause severe damage to a foot. This will add to our flax display.

Two other items were presented anonymously. One is a color wheel turned by a crank. This toy, using two colors, changing geometric designs as the wheel is turned. The second item is a shot pouch used with guns loaded by hand.

Skenesborough Museum will soon be opening for its 21st season. These items will be added to its exhibits.

The 400 copies of Fred Stiles "From Then Till Now" have been received by the Washington County Historical society.

The art of gravestone rubbing will be the topic of the June 6 meeting of the Whitehall Historical Society in the Isaac C. Griswold library at 8 p.m.

Mrs. Joan Patton of Hartford, chairman of the Committee of Cemeteries of the Washington County Historical Society, will present a history of the art and illustrating the technique of actual rubbings. With the help of local historians, she is compiling a list of all the cemeteries in Washington county.

Mrs. Patton is an active member of the Hartford Historical Society. She assisted in developing the Hartford

The Whitehall Times

July 26, 1979

Museum Notes

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Introduction

How many Whitehallers have seen the "Introduction of Skenesborough Museum," the slide story with local sound effects? While the museum is open this summer, it is time to view it.

Taking the theme of the museum, "Whitehall — Navy, Lake, Canal, Railroad," narrator James Aiken gives visitors a preview of each section of Whitehall's history, occupations, farm implements, household goods, toys. There's much more than the history of the Navy. That's why visitors spend so much time taking a tour. Recently a family spent a whole day (10 to 5) there.

There are gifts and books to be purchased. The building itself has canal significance as it was built in 1917, the year so many such buildings were erected along the barge canal system.

The Whitehall Times

October 16, 1980

Museum Notes

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Impressions of the Franke Room Dedication

What a pleasant experience was the opening of the Franke Room at Skenesborough Museum Oct. 12. From 2 to 5 o'clock there was not an idle moment in watching groups form and reform to meet new people and to greet old friends.

The first burst of enthusiasm was the arrival of the Barbieri family" who came early to take pictures of the Museum to send to Kaye Barbieri and Sarah Usher's uncle, Harry V. Salmons, in Charleston, S.C.

New York City arrived to see these girls he had known from childhood. Rear Admiral William Knickerbocker, direct from York, Maine, discussed, in colorful language, personalities of high ranking officials pictured in the Franke room.

It is impossible to name all the Bensonites and Rutland citizens, including the mayor of the city, who came to recall early experiences of youth and the trips along the lake to Whitehall when water was the mode of transportation.

How interesting it was to unravel connections of visitors who came from East Wallingford to see the Franke girls who found a former teacher and to watch the startled and then pleased expressions when former, pupil and teacher recognized each other. It really was like old home week.

Historians from nearby towns admired the progress made in Skenesborough Museum collections. One out-of-town historian was anxious for advice in starting a new museum. Whitehallers were made aware of the growth of the exhibits.

One satisfying experience was hearing over and over again the expression used by a large number of summer visitors about the Museum — "It's fantastic."

Now we have a new exhibit that adds immeasurably to the story of the United States Navy that Skenesborough Museum is telling. The trustees of the Museum are appreciative of the gifts of the daughters of William B. Franke and of Harry V. Salmons, who have provided them. They are pleased with the response of the many visitors to the Museum" and written responses to the announcements that were sent out.

The Whitehall Times
June 7, 1984

Museum Notes
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Trustees of Skenesborough Museum thank the many people who helped to save the thousands of items in the museum Tuesday, May 29.

At a time like this we realize the sincere interest and concern that Whitehall people have for the 25 year old institution.

The water which carried clay deposits rose at least one foot higher than in 1977 and has left its mark on the floor, walls and display cabinets that could not be moved. There will be many weeks of clean-up. So that the Museum may open as soon as possible, we shall appreciate the assistance of all who can give time in making it ready.

Names of interested people may be left at the Whitehall Independent and the Whitehall Times or by calling 499-0754 or 499-0225.

The Whitehall Times
August 1, 1985

Museum Notes
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

"The Week at Skenesborough Museum"

Within the Museum theme "Whitehall, Navy, Lake, Canal, Railroad" are models several of types of ships on display in the Museum. For the lake period there are four models, not to scale but representative. These four floated on Lake Champlain and Lake George during the later period of canal travel. The largest is that of the TICONDEROGA with its black smoke stack that does not have a white stripe around it, as its maker insists the boat never had. The next two are the CHATEQUAY and the: MOHICAN that were on Lake George in the tourist trade and the last the DEFENDER, a boat that accompanied the barges in tow when those great affairs were still on the lake. These were made by a man who knew the lake traffic well.

The next group is those made by a Navy recruiter from the office in Glens Falls. Each is a model of the fairly modern navy ship, equipped with mechanisms that allow them to be run in a stream, which was done often before they reached the museum. These models are of USS MISSOURI, USS BAINBRIDGE, USS SHERMAN, and USS SARATOGA. Another made by the same modeler is Harriet Lane, a USS Revenue cutter that was a presidential yacht in 1857.

Besides these are the 1/4 inch scale model of the SARATOGA of the War of 1812, the model of the PHILADELPHIA made by the woodworking boys of Whitehall High school, the models of canal boats and those of the Revolutionary War in the Harbor model and in case.

Besides these are the many ship working tools on display.

The Whitehall Times
August 15, 1985

Museum Notes
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

"Railroad" is a part of Skenesborough Museum's them "Whitehall-Navy, Lake, Canal, Railroad." It has the smallest number of items in its collection for having been a monopoly industry in the town.

Along two shelves is a display of the various types of lanterns used through the years in signaling along the road. Among the oldest items is the heavy iron coupling pins to hold the cars together. A stop sign held at one of the three crossings in the village and message loop are two hand held items. There are long oilers and some small oil cans used in the engines.

Among the larger items are a telegraph receiver and recorder. A conductor's stool is by the baggage truck that holds some trunks of different style. There are conductors' hats and paper articles of time tables, records, and pictures of engines and railroad men.

Behind the Museum is a railroad caboose brought to the station by the D&H. Many loyal railroaders, 28 in number, assisted in bringing it to the museum and setting it up on rails. Some years it has been manned by local retirees who entertained the visitors with narratives of the railroad.

This exhibit has room for many more railroad items. The museum will gladly accept such articles to tell the, railroad history of Whitehall.

The Whitehall Independent
March 26, 1986

Museum Notes
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A Thank You

Thank you to the many Whitehall citizens who rallied at the Skenesborough Museum at 3 AM Thursday to save its contents from the imminent flooding. Their concern for a Whitehall institution is a matter of pride to us all and is appreciated.

The greatest asset any community can have is its people - warm, hospitable, and cooperative. Whitehall has this asset. Through the years its people have given by subscription, by donation, by service to the needs of others, be it to the Greeks in the late 1800's, the Near East Relief in World War I times, the Red Cross, the churches, the many present drives for health projects, the volunteer fire companies, the emergency squad, Meals on Wheels, and Skenesborough Museum to name a few.

All these can be noted in the newspapers of earlier times. An early example is in 1820 when Simeon Shubel provided food and shelter to man and horse from his tavern at Main and Division Streets. The travelers lauded his generosity and friendliness.

After a period of fifty years, from the flood of 1927 Whitehall has seen three flood periods within nine years - in 1977, in 1984, and now the 1986 one. In 1977 the flood came from a heavy rain unexpectedly. The men who entered Skenesborough Museum at that time did so in hip boots to find objects floating everywhere. Fortunately the water receded quickly. The cold weather froze paper, books, and cloth items allowing them to be salvaged. The greatest loss was an Estey organ. In 1984 the flood was a man-made barrier. An early warning allowed volunteers to carry the contents to the second floor. The "water rose to five feet in comparison to the three feet in 1977. It stood for four days and Champlain clay was deposited on many objects. The quick action of the volunteers kept destruction mainly to pictures through osmosis, books, and furniture legs that stood in the water. Later volunteers used a case of WD40 in the clean-up process.

At this time of 1986 writing the water is receding, not having come much over the canal wall. It has flooded basements of many buildings. Hopefully the damage will not be great and that there will not be another flood within this century.

We do not regret the time spent at Skenesborough Museum in preventive measures. There are no dollars that could replace the artifacts that might have been destroyed.

THANK YOU.

The Whitehall Times **March 27, 1986**

Museum Notes **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

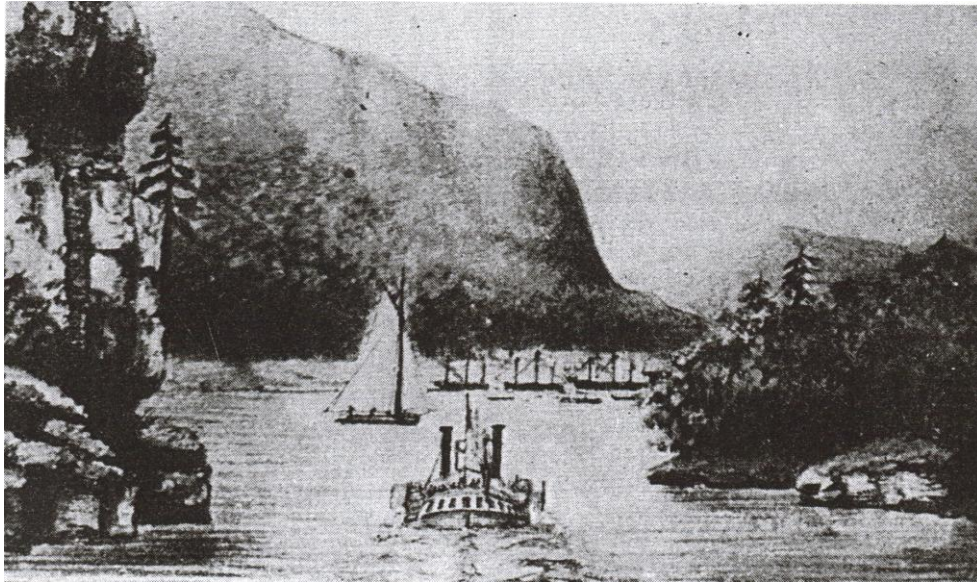
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be salvaged. The greatest loss was an Estey organ. In 1984 the flood was a man-made barrier. An early warning allowed volunteers to carry the contents to the second floor.



This is a picture of McDonough's fleet at Whitehall in 1814 when it was brought up the lake for protection to itself and from a possible attack by the British from the north. The background of the mountain must be a backdrop for water scenes, for that hill is exactly like scenes on Lake George that depict like events.

The lake boat period had begun by this time, hence the boat in the foreground. The fleet boats do not look like the Ticonderoga, the Eagle, and Linnet but that may be an artist's conception.

National Guard, Burleigh Corps And Veterans Organizations

Colonel A.H. Tanner Obituary

Whitehall Times 1/18/1882, Wednesday

It is our painful duty to record the death of Colonel A.H. Tanner, which occurred last Saturday morning at three o'clock. As a gentleman, a neighbor, a lawyer, a soldier, a useful citizen, his life has been a success. His loss is bereavement to the town and county, and the people mourn. He was born at Granville on May 23, 1833.

He came with his parents to live in this place when he was seventeen years of age. They occupied the house on Williams St., long the residence of Joseph Potter, esq., now occupied by Ambrose Gilligan. His father died also at the age of 4. His mother died in 1880 at the age of 82. He had three brothers, Warren, Samuel, and Philander, none of whom are living, and three sisters, Mrs. Elmira Bascon of this place, Mrs. Margaret Remington of Watertown, and Mrs. Eliza Reeves of Minneapolis.

After studying law, he went into partnership with Joseph Potter in 1854.

In the summer of 1862, he led Co. C, 123d Regiment N.Y. Volunteers, when it was ordered to join the Army of the Potomac. He was in the Battle of Chancellorsville, Gettysburg (where he commanded the regiment), Resaca, Kingston, New Hope Church, Altoona Mountain, Gulp's Farm, Kennesaw Mountain, (where he was wounded), Chattahoochee River, Peach Tree Creek, Atlanta and Bentonville, and was with Sherman on his march to the sea. He was promoted to be major of the regiment to rank from May 12, 1863. He was mustered out of service, June 8th, 1865.

Resuming the practice of law with Hon. Joseph Potter, he was called upon to fill many important offices by his fellow citizens. He was elected to Congress in 1868. He was elected supervisor, trustee of the village and school trustee and one of the most respected business men in this part of the state, lately remarked that his success was due to the counseling with Colonel Tanner.

When Judge Potter was elected to the Supreme bench, Colonel Tanner and J. Sanford Potter formed a partnership, which lasted until a few weeks ago

He was affable and genial in company, and was ever ready to assist in social improvement, together with George Hall, Rev. Mr. Corning and others; he helped to organize the Whitehall Library association a few years ago. In 1876 he drew up the constitution for its reorganization and it still exists today. In 1873 he was married to Miss Mary Hall of Salem. It is not many weeks since he said that he considered this the crowning act of his life.

In May 1877 Mr. Tanner was attacked with the symptoms of bronchitis, and for a time, they were warded off. He tried change of climate and had the best of medical treatment but during the past year his weak condition yielded to the approach of the disease. He foresaw the end and closed up his law business last month.

On Christmas day he was up and saw visitors for the last time. His emaciation and weakness were extreme, but he did not suffer great pain during the last weeks of his life. His patience, clearness of intellect, and urbanity did not desert him to the last.

One morning the Rev Mr. Hall read prayers in the Colonel's library and the lesson was the fifteenth psalm, which is David's description of a gentleman and that describes our departed friend. He was indeed a friend to every cause in Whitehall, and it would be difficult to express the grief of our citizens at his loss and their admiration for his character. Let us join most sincerely in the universal sympathy with the afflicted and sorrowing widow at her unspeakable loss.

The Troy Press of last Saturday evening said: "Col. Tanner was one of the ablest lawyers in northern New York, and before his illness had a very large and successful practice at the bar. He was one of the loveliest specimens of mankind, one of the most thorough gentlemen we have ever met; high-toned, urbane, cultured; with charming manners; intensely lovable by men and women. His face and his grace were a study; things of beauty, and "a joy forever".

The funeral services were held at the house at 11 o'clock yesterday church, and the Rev. Mr. Gordon of Cambridge, former chaplain of the 123rd regiment, made remarks appropriate to the occasion. The veterans of the late war attended in a body, the members of the bar of this and other places in the county also attended; and a great number of our citizens were present. The pallbearers were, Hon; H. G. Burleigh, A. P. Cook, L. H. Carrington, H. Root, W. H. Cooke, and Jas. Connery. The remains were placed on a car

of a special train, which started from Cook Street, near the late Colonel's home, at noon, and conveyed to Salem.

An escort of ten Veterans of Co. C. of the 123rd regiment, several members of the bar, and the relatives of the family occupied a coach and accompanied them to the beautiful Salem Cemetery, where Col. Tanner and Capt. Hall owned a lot together.

Notes

The funeral was largely attended.

A Floral wreath and cross, gift of Hon. H. G. Burleigh and J. S. Potter, lay on the casket.

The remains reposed upon the left side, with the left hand beneath the face, the right in the bosom, top of the vest collar.

Joseph Douglass, who was Col. Tanner's body servant during the war, was present at the funeral.

Rev. Mr. Gordon of Coila, chaplain of the 123rd regiment paid a glowing tribute to the memory of his old comrade. The remarks were very affecting but not a word was spoken that did not find a response in the breast of all present.

Among the present from elsewhere, were General Hughes, L. H. Northreys, and General Rogers of Sandy Hill, Judge Wait of Fort Edward, Colonel S. W. Russell, Salem, Samuel Thomas and Chas. Mason, North Granville. Mr. & Mrs. Remington, the latter sister of the deceased of Watertown, Captain Hall, father of Mrs. Tanner, and two brothers of Mrs. Tanner.

About fifty accompanied the remains, on the special train, to Salem.

The Whitehall Times October 14, 1971

G.A.R. Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Last spring while Fred Palmer was surveying on the old American Legion site on the east side of Broadway opposite Fourth Avenue, he uncovered the corner stone of a building that stood on that site.

After consulting with the American Legion officials, he presented the stone to Skenesborough Museum, This stone reads:

A. H. Tanner Post

563 G.A.R.

Organized

July 16, 1885

Search in the WHITEHALL TIMES of that year gives some information of this organization. Inquiry as to the whereabouts of the records of that organization has not as yet brought them to light.

Evidently there was a veteran's organization before the founding of this post for there are accounts of their activities, and evidently an information meeting was held on 16 July before the formal organization meeting of 5 August 1885 when D. H. King of

Fort Edward mustered in the first officers of this post of the Grand Army. The names are familiar ones of not too long ago Whitehall: Commander, Patrick Casey; First Vice Commander, Jed A. Cull; Adjutant, A. J. Taft; Sergeant Major, Edward Pittenger; Quartermaster, Charles E. Tinsley; Quartermaster Sergeant, Charles Farmer, Jr.; Chaplain, M. W. Murphy; Surgeon, John McLachlin; Officer of the Day, John Davey.

The post was named in honor of Colonel Adolphus H. Tanner of the 123rd Regiment, Company C, made up of Whitehall men. Activities of the post were not many weekly or they didn't get into the local news. The members took part in the U.S. Grant Memorial held in Hall's Opera House in August. In January an election was held and the new officers mustered in by A. J. Taft. In February the annual Veteran's Ball was held at the Opera House. Balls in the winter were the entertainment of many of Whitehall's organizations of which the Chamber of Commerce present ones are reminiscent. One wonders what occasions this statement in accounts of social affairs, "Nothing of an unpleasant nature occurred to mar the festivities."

In April 1886 the post presented a flag to the Doren Hose Company to replace one lost in the Opera House fire. The ball in 1887 was held in Griswold's Hall.

The post took part in Memorial Day exercises. The copies of the WHITEHALL TIMES end in early 1887, and the accounts of the post are now dependent on scattered papers. When was their building erected that had the cornerstone and what did it look like?

From the year and a half accounts, the following members belonged to A. H. Tanner Post 563: William Allen, Ebin Blinn, John Carpenter, Luke Carrington, Patrick Casey, Oliver Cole, Jerry Collins, Thomas Covil, Dan Conners, Jed A. Cull, Seymour Daley, John Davey, John Douglas, Charles Farmer, Joel Knights, John McLachlin, Hugh McCotter, Michael Murphy, Fred Pechett, Edward Pittinger, Herbert Rice, William Sinnott, C. O. Smith, Isaac Styles, Andrew J. Taft, H. J. Taft, Charles Tinsley, J. A. Waters.

The Whitehall Times May 3, 1979

A. H. Tanner Post #563 G.A.R. Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Using the meeting dates from the minute book from 10 July 1888 to 8 October 1895, the first of which were numbered, A.H. Tanner post, #563, Grand Army of the Republic, Department of New York, was organized in January, 1888. Our run of issues of The Whitehall Times stopped before that date.

The 13th regular meeting was held 10 July 1888. An entry of that meeting states that a new book was purchased for the adjutant's minutes (which happened to be the first book of the minutes).

Two regular meetings a month were held during the second and fourth weeks. The members' headquarters were in rooms rented of William Sinnott.

In the first recorded meeting, the members accepted an invitation to attend a reunion at Fort Ann 23 August. To this meeting they sent about 100 men with the band while nine represented the post at a first reunion of the 22nd New York Regiment 9 August in Glens Falls.

Committees secured the free services of the Juvenile Band, raised money for transportation and purchased 54 hats at \$9 a dozen. Later the Juvenile Band received a donation of \$20 and individuals could purchase a personal hat for 75 cents. A committee also was appointed to look after the ladies at the reunion, in seeing they got their meals carried.

During the six months of July through December, the members voted to pay by assessment ten cents each toward an equestrian statue in Washington, D.C., in memory of General John A. Logan; to send one dollar to the Soldiers and Sailors Home at Bath, N.Y., to help buy an organ to make the home pleasant; to pay eleven dollars for two tons of coal with cartage for an indisposed member.

A comrade died during these six months. Watchers from the post, "some good men," were paid for their assistance in the home. If the funds of the post ran low, membership assessments would be made. At the death of a member, the comrades turned out in full uniform. A force of nine, eight men and a corporal, to fire a salute over the grave, composed the firing squad. Each member placed a flower on the coffin. Carriages were hired from Fraser and Fisher and later three dollars was paid for "horse hire." At the next post meeting the charter was draped.

Two new members were accepted in October and November, Matthew J. Tracy and Paul Sansfrey, and one transferred to Post Bosworth at Fair Haven. In December plans were being made to hold a ball before Lent.

Election of officers took place in December. Members present at each meeting were listed in the minutes. At the end of December, only 55 had been named as being in attendance at any one meeting.

The Whitehall Times May 10, 1979

A.H. Tanner Post #563 G.A.R. Memorial Days Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

On 14 May 1889 at the regular meeting of the post a committee was appointed to make necessary arrangements for Memorial or Decoration Day, as it was called. Immediately after the regular meeting a special meeting was held and chairmen appointed for the various duties: Secretary, Marshal, Assistant Marshal, Speaker, platform, music, flowers, flags and markers at the graves. Invitations to invite the trustees and all societies of the village were to be sent. The committees were to report in a week.

Reports on 22 May were good. R.C. Cook was to deliver the address, trustees of the village promised to erect the platform; music was to be by the Juvenile Band, two

fifers, a bass drummer, and the Fire Department band; flowers, flags and markers and invitations were in process.

On 23 May it was determined that the post would attend in a body at some place of worship the Sunday preceding the day and a committee was appointed to make arrangements for this service. At the regular 28 May meeting the orders were for the post turn out in uniform as far as possible and all to turn out in regulation hats, badges and canes on Memorial Day. Another committee was appointed to procure evergreens and bring them to the post, to procure tubs and water and wait on the ladies who would make the wreaths. The asked the village trustees to have two officers to keep order at the stand, and at the cemetery, any compensation to be paid by the village.

On 11 June at the regular meeting all the committee made reports which were accepted and the committee were discharged. In addition a vote of thanks to Mrs. Staten for the flowers carried, to N.W. Vannier for ice and to all ladies and societies that turned out, to the clergy, to R.C. Cook and P.H. Corbett for pictures and frames presented to the post, was made. A card of thanks was to be printed in the Whitehall Chronicle.

This was the only year to 1893 that details were given for the Memorial Day procedure. In 1890, 100 invitations were printed. The village trustees erected a stand at Boardman Cemetery. The church services were held at Our Lady of Angels with Rev. Father McDonald officiating at 9 a.m. Memorial Day. The comrades turned out in uniforms as far as they were able but all wore Grand Army hats and white gloves. Comrade Daley carried other comrades to the different cemeteries. The report of 10 June said that everything passed off pleasantly and satisfactorily to each and all. Adjutant Tinsley was complimented as having taken his part in the exercises with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of all present.

In 1891 a committee of five attended to the ceremonies. The speaker was Honorable W.H. Teft.

In 1892 a committee did the work and all were to attend in a body.

In 1893 the comrades were to attend the Presbyterian Church in a body. They invited the Women's Relief organization to accompany the post to the church. In 1894 the minutes reported that Decoration Day was respected in accordance with the General of G.A.R. An invitation was extended to the Burleigh Corps, the firemen, the board of education and the clergy to assist in the services.

It would seem that the format for observing Memorial Day is not too different from the 1890's except in transportation, numbers of people attending, and number of cemeteries visited.

The Whitehall Times
May 24, 1979

A.H. Tanner Post #563 G.A.R.
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



The minutes of the A. H. Tanner Post were concerned mainly with elections of officers, accepting new members and dropping those who had not paid their dues. Many were reinstated, however.

A service provided for the comrade was their care in their last illness and burial. Afterwards widows received aid in money, coal or provisions. The post bought a lot in Smith Cemetery.

In 1892 the post began to cooperate with the Women's Relief Corps, who used their post rooms. After the Relief Corps was formed, the post prettied up their rooms by purchasing three stands, one dozen chairs, four dozen spittoons and five window shades. A center table and a Bible were given by Comrade Thomas Covell. The members cooperated with the ladies in building a booth at an annual fair and holding a dance in the Music hall. The profits from the dance were \$2.53.

Annual reunions of the county organization were held in various towns. Usually a delegate was sent: 1889 Greenwich; 1890 Sandy Hill; 1891 Dresden; 1892 they did not attend at Argyle; 1893 Fort Edward. State reunions also had delegates from X.H. Tanner Post; 1889 William Sinnott and Warren Goodrich; 1891 Charles Tinsley; 1893 Thomas Coville. In 1892, L.C. Carrington was sent to the World's Fair representing New York State as one of 50 representatives.

In 1896 the post endorsed a Congressional bill for a Service Pension Law for all surviving Union soldiers of the Civil War. In this year also they offered the use of their rooms and any assistance desired to a group thinking of organizing a camp of the Sons of Veterans.

All was not routine business. In 1889 at the invitation of Father Ethier, pastor of Notre Dame, they attended the annual French Fair in full uniform. In 1891 they planned a ball preceding Ash Wednesday. In 1891 also they held a "proper" observance of the 25th anniversary of the G.A.R. organization in Music hall, rent \$15. At these affairs pictures were taken of Col. A.H. Tanner and Lt. Corbett. In 1892 they participated in a Washington's Birthday parade with the 9th Separate Company, N.G.S.N.Y. They appeared in civilian clothes with regulation hats and badges.

In 1892 the members changed post rooms from William Sinnott's at \$4 rent a month to Griswold Hall at \$75 a year.

During these years the commanders of the post were William Sinnott, Charles B. Tinsley, P. Casey, L.H. Carrington, and Ovil L. Burdett.

Adjutants were William H. Havens, H.M. McCotter, P. Casey, W. Scott Stowell, and Edward Pittinger.

The Whitehall Times
August 15, 1985

A.H. Tanner Post, G.A.R.
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The A. H. Tanner Post, G.A.R. was organized 29 July 1885 by twenty seven veterans. They were mustered in by D. H. King of Fort Edward. It was named in honor of the late Colonel Tanner of Whitehall. The names of the officers chosen are familiar ones on Whitehall's Civil War list; Commander Patrick Casey; First Vice Commander Jed A. Cull; Adjutant A. J. Taft; Sergeant Major Edward Pittenger; Quartermaster Charles E. Tinsley; Quartermaster Sergeant Charles Farmer, Jr.; Chaplain M.W. Murphy; Surgeon John M. Ladler; Officer of the Day, William Sinnott; Officer of the Guard John Davey.

The Whitehall Independent
March 7, 1984

Hospitable Whitehalls
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

On Sunday 13 January 1884 an editor of the Amsterdam, N.Y. Democrat was a visitor in Whitehall. He wrote his impression of some of the citizens he met. "Speaking of cold weather, it may be remarked that the mercury stood at 28 and 30 below near the post office on Sunday and Monday and where it stood at Judge Potter's residence on the hillside we didn't dare inquire. But the people are so warmhearted and hospitable that this little spurt of frigidity may be easily overlooked and if any of the readers of the Democrat are honored with an invitation to the Burleigh Corps reception, they will do well to accept it promptly, without regard to the state of the weather."

"One of the leading spirits in Whitehall is Congressman Burleigh, who is largely engaged in the transportation business, lumbering, etc. As a successful politician he has few equals, and probably no superior. Speaker Sheard's election was largely due to his efforts and it is worthy of note that the New York Tribune correspondent credits Mr. Burleigh and ex-speaker Sloan with aiding the speaker in making up his committees."

"The Burleigh Corps is a Whitehall military organization which has made many friends among the ladies by the gallantry, fine appearance and soldierly bearing of the members, and won several valuable prizes by their superior marksmanship. Mr. Burleigh, for whom the corps is named, has presented the organization with a beautiful stand of colors, and he frequently takes them on excursions and in other ways treats them with marked generosity. Their headquarters are handsomely fitted up and their receptions are red-letter event in the social history of Whitehall. General Carr and staff are honored guests at one of the recent gatherings and the young ladies are all getting frocks built for the next one, which is to occur in February in Hall's Opera House."

The Burleigh Headquarters were in the top floor of the Anderson Hall. It was from there that they moved into the new armory at the corner of Williams and Poultney Streets.

The Whitehall Independent **September 27, 1983**

Burleigh Corps **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Before the building of the Whitehall Armory in 1899, the Burleigh Corps was housed in the Armory at the top floor of the Anderson Hall. For larger drills they had to repair to a large field. On 3 September 1883 under the command of Captain James H. Park fifty men were ordered out for a parade and inspection and marched to the grounds west of Sixth Street (Maple Street). Brigadier General P. M. Briggs, inspector general, put them through the inspection of arms and equipment, handling and trying each musket, testing locks and bayonets, examining cartridge boxes and the interior of knapsacks. The inspection was rigid and thorough and close attention was bestowed on the drill and the marching of the corps.

On 1 September, the Burleigh Corps closed rifle practice, qualifying all of the men except one and taking 47 members out of a possible 48. There were three classes. The first class contained men who had previously had forty or over. The second, men, 35-to-40; the third, those who had never reached 35. Winners of each class were those who shot the highest aggregate score at 100, 200, 300, and 500 yards respectively on one day at each range out of a possible 100 points. Winners in the first class First Sergeant T. A. Paterson 92, and First Lieutenant R.R. David, 90; in the second class F. S. Densmore, 81 and Private S.G. Moore, 78; in the third class Private S. E. Chapin, 67 and Private F. Cobb, 65.

The Burleigh Corps planned a fair at the armory Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, October 9-12. Many attractive articles were to be offered for sale. Excellent music was played each evening and refreshments served at popular prices.

Mr. Theodore Godbout, Jr. left here Saturday 1 September 1883 to take up a position in the composing room at the New York Sun. Mr. Godbout had been attached to the Times office for ten years. He came here as an apprentice boy in 1873 and when he left, had been foreman for three years. He left here with the best wishes of all for his future success.

The Whitehall Times
March 17, 1983

Burleigh Corps – February 1883
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Grand Ball and concert of the Burleigh Corps at Hall's Opera House on 2 February presented marksmen's badges and company drills. The balcony was filled with spectators and the auditorium was packed to hear the concert of Fred Austin's Band and the famous/local vocalist Carrie Boughton. General Carr and his officers were present!

The opening march had one hundred fifty couples. The women wore elaborate costumes and the swinging of long trains was constant. The dance kept up till the opening hours of day.

The Whitehall Times
November 30, 1978

Burleigh Corps – October 1878
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Burleigh Corps held a formal reception to the lady Hebe in the armory. The company entertained with a half-hour drill after which a hop was held. The Rev. John Lowrey, chaplain preached the second anniversary sermon to the Burleigh Corps. The men were in full uniform in the main body of the Presbyterian Church.

The Burleigh Corps team met teams from Troy 16 Oct. Whitehall's team was picked from 60 men while the others were chosen from several hundred men. The Burleigh team won first prize, an elegant bronze statue of goddess Hebe which was on exhibition in Lt. Manville's drug store. Honorable H. G. Burleigh presented a badge to Sergeant L.H. Cook for making the best score of the day.

The Whitehall Independent
July 4, 1984

Burleigh Corps – October 1878
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Burleigh Corps rented ground of George Buel (Hanford Austin Farm) for a rifle range. A new target was obtained and the men received new uniforms.

The Whitehall Times
June 29, 1978

Whitehall in the Spanish American War
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Eighty years ago Whitehall service men were in Tampa Springs, Florida.

Cuba wanted freedom from Spain. American sentiment favored the island's cause, especially after the U.S.S. Maine had been sunk. President McKinley had declared war 21 April 1898 and called for 125,000 volunteers, especially from the ranks of the National Guard.

26 April 1898 was a red letter day for the 9th Separate Company. It was the 22nd anniversary for the Burleigh Corps, named for Congressman Henry G. Burleigh. A bill for the construction of an armory in Whitehall had been signed into law; the company had been ordered into national service.

The room in Anderson hall on Canal (Main) Street rang with excitement. Flags were at full mast and even the officers were excited.

About a week before, the men of the Corps had been issued new dress coats — dark blue, double breasted, with shoulder striped and white piped along the front. The latest Springfield gun has been issued. The men were assured of accurate shooting with the .45 caliber weapon. The cartridge box and bayonet scabbard were replaced with a rod bayonet that slid up and down the Barrel while the ammunition was carried in net belts. The company had received 80 rifles, 70 belts and 4,500 rounds of ammunition.

Each company also had the new Buzzacotts outfit, which was already in use in the United States and British armies. It provided for cooking so that 20 to 100 men could have soup, boiled meat and homemade bread in the field. The men of Whitehall were prepared to go to war within a few hours.

Captain Ernest A. Greenough had recently been given a 15-year service medal from the National Guard. On 25 April he was called to Albany for instructions and on 26 April he ordered the guard to assemble at the armory. Explaining the conditions for enlistment he told the men the term would be two years, the same officers would be kept unless promoted or disabled and the men would not go to Cuba until fall. Out of 89 men, 71 volunteered for service, six of them being from Dresden.

The 9th Separate Company was a part of the Third Battalion of the Second Regiment in the Third Brigade with Major Lloyd of Troy regimental commander.

Other companies were the 18th of Glens Falls, the 32nd of Hoosick Falls, and the 22nd of Saratoga Springs. Each company had 89 men.

On Sunday 1 May 1898, the volunteers were busy at the armory readying for the trip. Captain Greenough worked until midnight correcting the list which included 71 men from Whitehall, six from Dresden, and others from the county.

The Port Henry band was hired and played a concert in the band stand Sunday evening. Monday morning early, about 4 a.m., church bells rang, mill whistles blew, fire bells rang, torpedoes banged and people poured into the streets to line the way to the station. Buildings were decorated in patriotic colors.

At 5 a.m. the company, led by the Port Henry band, marched out of the armory, escorted by the G.A.R. veterans and 52 members of the company. They paused before the Y.M.C.A. building where the Ladies Auxiliary pinned a silk American Flag to each guardsman and then on to the station, where amid cheers, tears, and much waving of hats, flags, and handkerchiefs. The boys boarded the special cars and were off to serve their country.

The Whitehall Times **July 6, 1978**

Spanish American War **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

The special train carrying the 9th Separate Company left Whitehall Monday morning 1 May 1898, picking up other volunteers at Saratoga and Troy. They arrived at Grand Central Station the following morning at 7 a.m. Great enthusiastic crowds were there to greet the "upstaters." A special group of 30 college boys were waving flags. Other people lined the streets from the station to 34th Street ferry where the boys embarked for Camp Black near Hempstead Plains.

Camp Black was on the highest part of the plateau. Arriving in the rain and a 48 degree temperature, the lads waited two hours for the baggage wagons and waited some more while the surveyors laid out the camp and until the tents, poles and stakes arrived. Overcoats and rubber ponchos were issued and the shivering boys ate what was left in their haversacks or went to bed supperless.

The troops settled into camp with Garden City and Hempstead each three miles away and the nearest house one-half mile away. The regular routine became: 5:25 a.m., call; 5:55, breakfast; 11:55, dinner; 4:35, supper; 10p.m. taps. Squad drill and calisthenics became all too common. By Thursday travel rations were exchanged for regular meals (can one imagine a pound and a quarter of meat and a pound of vegetables for every .man every day for thousands; but it wasn't until a week later that the water pipes were laid. There were many unwashed bodies when all the water had to be carried. But the 9th Separate had a good reputation for cheerfulness and the least sickness among the companies.

It takes a while to put the finish on soldiers and it was a while before the sentries left off saying "Whoa, Hey, there," and "Stand." And two men did just hate to return the donkey they picked up "somewhere."

Although the Burleigh Corps had had physical examinations before leaving Whitehall, army exams became due. There was apprehension as to the results and some boys were sent home because of defective eyesight, hearing and rheumatism. They went in a group to headquarters and begged to be kept with the company, promising to sign papers waiving all rights to pensions, but the requests were denied. Later it was discovered that the medical men had interpreted their orders too finely. Their only consolation was that they had shown their loyalty to their country.

The Second Regiment was mustered into the United States Army on May 16 and left Camp Black for Chickamauga, Ga., on May 20. They took with them their Sibley stoves, much to the amusement of other regiments. The 9th had obtained 25 of these from E.C. Pratt & Co., of Whitehall. Dewey, a pointer, and Sampson, a beagle, accompanied the boys as mascots. It was a long, dusty, hot trip of 53 hours.

Camp life at Chickamauga was fairly pleasant with plenty of water for baths. Company I was distinguished for its immaculate uniforms, they kept their white stripes clean and their accoutrements in splendid condition. The Second was the only regiment fully uniformed, armed and equipped.

Editor Reynolds supplied each Whitehaller with a copy of The Times. Folks back home sent a "Box" with delicacies and tobacco. One source of interest was the searching for Civil War relics in the vicinity. Captain Greenough and a detail uncovered some Confederate graves. The men reburied their findings, covered them with flowers.

Back home the 109th Separate Company replaced the 9th. The count was 70 men including 25 new recruits. Otis A. Dennis was captain; Dr. Edward Joslin, First Lieutenant; and J. Boies Potter, Second Lieutenant.

The Whitehall Times July 13, 1898

Spanish American War Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



On 1 June 1898, Company I set out for Tampa, Fla., from Camp Thomas, Chickamauga, at 5 a.m. After marching seven miles to the train, they waited in cars several hours before their baggage arrived. The new camp area was called Gamison, the government beach for military purposes.

Orders were received for the Second Regiment to leave for the northern coast of Cuba 9 June but for an unknown reason to the men, they were rescinded. On 14 June the Second Regiment became a part of the Second Brigade, Second Division, of the Fourth Army Corps. The company was to be recruited to 106 men and officers.

The camp was now set up on a permanent basis. It was so crowded the conical tents could not be used and the men had to set up their shelter tents. Everything was covered with a fine white sand but there was plenty of water to wash with. The greatest problem now was inactivity.

Up to 16 June the men of the Second Brigade had not been paid. Captain Greenough wrote home that the boys got \$15.60 a month and lived on government rations which cost 28 cents a day. He suggested the townspeople could help the boys by collecting money to be sent to the Company Fund. In that way all could share in extras like soft bread, butter occasionally and vegetables.

This was accomplished after much misunderstanding and incrimination. When the pay finally came, the men received 73 cents a day instead of \$1.25. They went around paying off small debts, squaring themselves at the canteen, but mostly sending their money home.

At this time censors were hard at work, for many believed the time to go to Cuba had arrived. The men needed activity. On 4 July there was a big baseball game. Three Company I men practiced shooting too near the camp and stayed ten days in the guard house. Almost all of the company were away or a sham battle (which they won) when the most exciting event occurred.

On 22 June the corral of mules and horses was adjacent to company tents. One night the mules and horses were so startled by some occurrence that hundreds of them stampeded. They broke loose from their confinement and ran amuck along the streets of the camp where the few men left in camp were in bed and into the streets of the city of Tampa — going through tents, around trees, greatly terrifying the men.

Some took to the trees for safety; some saved themselves by waving lanterns in the faces of the animals. One man seesawed from one side of a tree trunk to the other as he was brushed in the stomach and then in the rear alternately. If the company had been in camp at the time there would have been serious results. It was hours before the stampede was over. Many of the animals were killed in their mad chase.

On 30 June the 24 new recruits to increase Company I left Whitehall for Florida. Some were from other towns. They arrived at camp 2 July, with new mascots — goats, dogs, pigs and a cow. These "shave tails" were distinguished from the seasoned men by white skins and by long hair. With the hazing of the men and the help of the sergeants, they were soon to become part of the troops.

By 16 July Company I had been ordered three times to go aboard transports and three times the orders had been rescinded. By 21 July rumor became reality when they learned that if possible only the regular army would be sent to Cuba. Disappointment was great; the men were angry; people demanded explanations.

One main complaint was dominant. If the men were not sent to Cuba, why were they not removed from the hot climate where many of them were getting climatal fever and typhoid fever?

On 29 July they were sent to Fernandina in northern Florida with the usual early morning call to hurry up and get ready and then to wait. The regiment was located on a

plateau just outside the town where mosquitoes were prevalent but the prospect of typhoid was slight. The boys were to stay here until they were sent home to be mustered out of service.

The Whitehall Times
July 20, 1978

Spanish American War
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Second Regiment broke camp at Fernandina, Florida, 24 August, 1898, destination Averill Park, N.Y. They were to be in Troy for a day. The D&H arranged a special train from Whitehall for an excursion as did other lines leading to Troy and people from the towns along the way converged to see the soldiers.

The trip north was not a bad one. There were Pullmans and sleeping cars that were clean and the food was good and plentiful. People along the way brought flowers to the boys and food and milk. Colonel Hardin was solicitous of the comfort of his boys.

At Troy buildings were decorated; mobs of people surged back and forth and cheering was continuous. The band played and even though forbidden, individuals rushed into the cars to greet the boys sooner. From the station the men were marched to the Troy armory where food was supplied and time until 11 at night was allowed when they could visit with relatives or roam around the streets.

The new Camp Hardin, named for their thoughtful colonel, was on a plateau overlooking a lake. There was plenty of room for their tents, wide streets and a huge water tank. Both types of tents could be used and here they waited to be mustered out of the service.

On 15 September Company I arrived in Whitehall. Again the village was decorated with flags and people were at the depot. Fair Haven band played and ex-members of the company were ready to be escorts.

The line of march was along Canal Street to the middle bridge, to Williams Street and up it to the home of E. P. Newcomb, back again Printing House Square. Here from the platform at the Times office the men were addressed by Judge Lillie, Rev. N. Richards and Frank Bascom. Continuing, they marched from there to the lower bridge and up Broad and Canal streets to the armory, where they were granted a furlough of 30 days. The boys from Dresden were carried home by boat.

Mustering out came on 30 October, with pay to 25 October and their discharge Papers. Company 1 was one of four companies that had not lost a man by death and had the largest number of men of any company in the state. On mustering out only three men were absent and that was because of illness. Consensus was that the company was entitled to great credit, as one of the best in service with strong sturdy men. Some of the men re-enlisted. Others were content to remain at home.

Thus Company I, along with other companies, marched up the hill to war and marched down again, knowing that they had served their country well.

The Whitehall Times
July 27, 1978

Spanish American War Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



The roster of Company I did not have all the names of area men who were associated with it. During the period from May to October, 1898, others were: Clarence A.

Jillson, John Finnican, Charles E. Waters, Napoleon J. Barber, Henry Carpenter, William F. Hammond, Roy H. Hill, Albert D. Jillson, John R. Kelley, Albert Lyons, Charles Noel, C. E. Pond, William Robetor, Edward Rock, William Rock, Henry W. Stockwell, Benjamin F. Waters.

Of these, 12 were rejected because of physical disabilities and sent home, three were discharged from service, one was the band leader, and one had a long term in the hospital with typhoid.

Company I was composed of men from the surrounding towns. Other places represented were Salem 11, Dresden 10, Granville 5, Schenectady 4, Ticonderoga 5, Fair Haven and Green Island 3 each, Fort Edward, Glens Falls, Putnam and Port; Henry 1 each.

After mustering out some Whitehall men reenlisted: Captain Ernest Greenough, John McGeoch, Herbert Tracy, Roy B. Hill (Salem) and Maurice Shepardson. Other men joined other units during the war. Gus Barton and James Barber were in the cavalry; Pat Lawlor was in the 69th Regiment; William Loomis was cited for bravery in the 21st Infantry.

Benjamin F. Waters was with Theodore Roosevelt's Rough Riders. William Hart, brother of the three Harts in Company I, went down with the USS Maine.

The Whitehall Independent

July 2, 1986

The National Guard of Whitehall – February 1916

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The National Guard of Whitehall grew out of the Burleigh Corps (a story of which will come later). By February 1916 the Guard was in trouble, one indication being that it was way below an enlistment of 100. Other communities were desirous of having the armory that was in Whitehall and a rumor hinted that the village might lose its organization.

George Brett, an influential and energetic businessman, and Walter Stroupe, of Saratoga, a former Whitehaller, spearheaded an investigation that brought Captain Karl Isburgh, Regimental Adjutant, and Major Everett Pateman, Commander of the Second Battalion of Troy, to Whitehall. They alerted the Business Men's Association to the danger. The rallying cry of Whitehall became "Save the Armory". Something had to be done or the armory would be torn down. The Village people could help by being willing to pay the men while away on Guard duty and the Guard could be brought up to full strength.

On 16 February 1916, these men met with the Businessmen's Association at their room in Gray's Hall (Iron Front) to reaffirm intentions. Then after this meeting, led by Ross's Band, they marched to the armory to find an enthusiastic crowd of about a thousand people, so the newspaper said, waiting hopefully to see a reorganization of the National Guard, Company I, Second Regiment Infantry Regiment.

At the armory there were addresses by Major Pateman and Major W. A. Taylor and Captain Henry Green of Amsterdam. Major Pateman outlined the value of a National Guard. The Guard is composed of men and officers for reasons of patriotism, their best service being that they are prepared in case of war. The men's qualifications and benefits would be accuracy, improved appearance, obedience to discipline, better morals, promptness and sobriety, all of these making for good citizens. A decision was made. Men would enlist; the armory would stay in Whitehall, one of the finest buildings of its kind in the state.

The former officers resigned, Captain John Kelly, First Lieutenant D. A. Forbush, and Second Lieutenant Byron Hupman. New Officers were elected: Captain Hermon E. Sullivan, First Lieutenant John R. Mc Laughlin, and Second Lieutenant J. Cleveland R. Hall. Until these men could be confirmed and commissioned the Company would be under the supervision of Captain Isburgh and Major Pateman. The commission came 4 May 1916. Recruitment began. Twenty-five men signed up but only fifteen passed the physical. More were expected. The manager of the Silk Mills, H. U. Frost, promised twenty-eight men. After this meeting the officials of the occasion and military officers went out to supper.

On 17 March 1916 the Easter Ball featured the fortieth anniversary of the founding of the Burleigh Corps in 1876. There was an afternoon parade of Company I, a dress parade and inspection in the evening by Colonel M. Andrews of the Second Infantry, followed by a Grand Ball.

In the meantime, the United States relations with Mexico were being strained at the border. Francesca Villa had sacked Columbus, New Mexico, on 1 March 1916. General Pershing, sent there by President Wilson, pursued too deeply into Mexico. That country threatened war. In return President Wilson drafted a war measure. Mobilization was on.

The Whitehall Independent

July 9, 1986

The National Guard of Whitehall – 1916

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

From the time of reorganization, 17 February 1916, the National Guard of Whitehall grew in numbers. New enlistments and reenlistments had been made and approved. On Sunday 18 June, according to President Wilson's orders, 100,000 National Guardsmen had been ordered mustered. Secretary of the Navy Daniels had also ordered war vessels to be sent to Mexico. Whitehall Guardsmen were on the drill field when they received their orders between 9 and 10 o'clock Monday 19 June. The number for New York State was 15,000. The men drilled all week at the armory and drill field. They were allowed to stay at home at night; the newcomers stayed at the armory and ate in mess tents at the back of the building. Their pay amounted to 75 cents a day. On Thursday, 33 men arrived at the station at 2:15 and were escorted by an enthusiastic crowd to the armory. Other men attempted to enlist but the examination was strict.

The Second Regiment to which Company I of Whitehall was attached was composed of twelve companies with its headquarters at Troy. The three battalions were made up of companies A, C, D, of Troy; B, of Cohoes; E, F, Schenectady; G, Gloversville; H, Amsterdam; I, Whitehall; K, Glens Falls; L, Saratoga Springs; M, Hoosick Falls.

All men of Company I stayed at the armory Saturday night, sleeping on the floor as all equipment and bedding had been sent on ahead. They were to leave for Camp Whitman Sunday morning, 25 June. The fire bell was to sound 36 strokes. Headed by the Italian Tartaglian Band, Captain Hermon Sullivan led the men from the armory down Williams to the Saunders Street Bridge and up the Main Street, which at that time was present Main and Broadway, to the railroad station. There awaited a crowd of about 3,000. The Captain, made the wait mercifully short for the goodbyes at entraining. One family, Inglee, had four sons leaving Whitehall that day at 8:20 a.m. Company I was in the first section of a two section train.

The 127 men of Company I detrained at Poughkeepsie at 3:15 where they received a great welcome. From there they were marched in mud and rain for one hour to reach Cornell Farm. They were led by Sgt. Preston L. King, 62 years old. Another oldee was Cook Charles Jillson of 56 years. Here at Camp Whitman the regiment stayed until 4 July when they were mustered into the United States Army.

Camp life was filled with drill and entertainment. The first day out was extremely hot. Company I was proud to say that not one of their men fell by the wayside as they did in other companies. As a matter of fact, Company I, posted at the end of the line, rode the group before them so hard that they were called "Timber Wolves", "Iron Men", and "Lumber Jacks". Company I lost its collective temper and offered to fight the others. That shut up their name-calling.

Besides the drill there was entertainment by the members themselves. Company I entertained with a solo by Pvt. John Inglee accompanied by Sgt. Randall at the platform in the amphitheater. Company I and Company K were great rivals in boxing, with First Sgt. LaMay being the referee. Company I challenged Company K at baseball. Company its men were Barton, Validly, "Figgie" Muir, Gerard, Golden, with Shingle official umpire. There was a band concert every night and on Sunday there were religious services provided for all, with a sacred concert at night.

At first, Company I had no company, but as time went by Whitehaller began to visit. The first day out rations were miss-sent and the men had only a sandwich apiece for two meals, but they were fed mightily when they returned to camp. People sent food. Especially noted was the special donation of the Du Vurgeys of Hall House of sandwiches, salads, cakes, candy, and so on. Subscriptions were taken up for tobacco supplies. The boys had to take a bath every day and were in bed at 10 p.m.

The Whitehall Independent **July 23, 1986**

The National Guard of Whitehall – 1916 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

The National Guard in the Mexican War

On 4 July 1916 orders came for the Second Regiment to move from Camp Whitman to the Mexican Border. On that day the men were mustered into the United States Army. They drew equipment the following day. This consisted for every man of at least one waist belt, two pairs of pants, two coats, two pairs of shoes, two suits of underwear, and three pairs of stockings, one pair of leggings, one poncho, and one woolen sweater.

The pay scale for some of the ranks was: Captain \$200; First Lieutenant \$166.67; Second Lieutenant \$141.67; First Sergeant \$45; Commissary Sergeant \$45; Corporal \$21; Corporal Band \$30; Private Band \$24; Private \$15.

On 7 July the Second Regiment left Green Haven, near Camp Whitman, in three trains of 25 cars, 1800 men, three sleeping in a seat. Later they found how to remove the backs of the seats and the cars looked like big barracks. The officers were in accommodation cars and the men in day coaches. The livestock and baggage were on flatcars. When fully equipped, the Regiment would have 73 mules and 56 horses.

Transportation was first a hike of two miles from camp to Green Haven. When they reached New York they had an hour for viewing. Then it was a succession of railroads: Central New England to Maybrook; Lehigh-Hudson to Belvedere; Pennsylvania to Washington; Chesapeake & Ohio to Louisville; Lehigh and Nashville to Mapletown; Texas-Pacific to Houston; and then to Brownville.

After Baltimore the men had a breakfast of canned salmon, jam, and bread; then on to Wilmington and to Washington where they had two hours to see the city. At Alexandria they were allowed to swim in the Potomac and here the quartermaster department became organized and they had three meals a day. At Clifton Forge they were allowed a stretch of an hour and a half. Here the beautiful Alleghenies began. All along the route, people gathered to greet them and give them food and tobacco. At Hinton, West Virginia, they were delighted to see a friendly face from Whitehall, the Rev. Beardsley who had done mission work in Whitehall on Broad Street and the local YMCA. Here they began to see the South -tobacco, corn, sweet potatoes, and the Negro people. At Memphis they were transferred to sleeping cars. At Louisville there was a five hour lay-over and a chance for a bath. This lack of water was one trial. Their chance at a bath seemed to be in a cup of water which was sometimes obtained from the engine. The fact that the engine burned soft, coal did not add any pleasure to the trip.

Through Palestine to Longview where they were held up by an accident to Texarkana to Houston to Mission. The boys had expected to see Edward Chadwick, another link with Whitehall and YMCA work but were disappointed as he had to be away. In Houston the Young Men's League had erected a large shower bath for all soldiers and furnished a free towel. They arrived at Mission, Texas, 15 July at 10 a.m. Company I was encamped between Company K and Company L. The cotton fields were

full of blossoms and the temperature 104. The ground for the camp was level as far as one could see, with not one bit of shade, only sand, sage brush and cacti in all sizes and blossoms. Some thought it a shame to destroy them but the ground, had to be cleared. Across the Rio Grande the Carranzista were encamped but no trouble was expected.

The boys had gotten their first glimpses of the Mexicans and described them as: about five feet tall, with a swarthy complexion and hair black as coal. They appeared to be harmless looking. They stood and gazed in amazement as the boys marched by.

The Whitehall Independent July 23, 1986

The National Guard of Whitehall – 1916 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The National Guard in the Mexican War

The Second Regiment reached Mission, Texas, 15 July 1916. They already missed the mountains of the north. They saw acres and acres of flat land with hundreds of Texas steers grazing with hardly a tree, and there was no shade. There were spiders, lizards, and scorpions, which they later sent home as souvenirs. At first there were snakes but they were soon driven out. There were wild pigeons, and jack rabbits large enough to raise the story that the rabbits were fitted to harness to be driven by the children. The weather became hotter the nearer they got to the border which was one and a half miles away. Across the Rio Grande could be seen the Carranzista.

On July 22 there was a terrific storm. Sand and water with lightning flooded and muddied the tents. There was so much rain that the boys could find no dry place to sleep and walked around all night. Some clothes on a line were carried a mile away.

The soil was good sandy ground with enough clay to make it sticky. Captain Sullivan created a trend when he built a wooden form, laid it on his tent site, filled it with sand, and packed it down. The other officers were soon imitating the process. The men's tents had adobe floors one and a half feet above the level of ground, with a ditch one foot deep around it. They ploughed up the middle ground and soused it with water. Later they had wooden floors, for the ground was hot to lie on. Shower baths were in front of the tents.

The boys were in fine shape but much thinner than at home. The officers counseled eating less food as they did not need it in this area. It was found that they had been wolfing down their first ration so they could have seconds. Food was often a subject, as it is for one away from home. It was considered "bum" by many. One day the commissary sent 189 pounds of bread allotment for the Second Regiment and nothing more. But the cooks were equal to the occasion and made a meal from bacon and canned beef from boxes labeled 1915. The officers could go hunting and their Lieutenant Groesbeck and Captain Hall shot about 25 pigeons and had a good pie. There were wild ducks and a flock of geese flew overhead daily. Henry Neddo sent between 300 and 400 packages to Company I and received a rousing cheer.

Because of the very hot weather, they rose early at five o'clock and drilled till ten, and again for one hour after supper. They could leave camp from two to five p.m. They had no ammunition and played mock battles. When a man was seen by another one, he was dead. There were band concerts, songs, boxing bouts, and once a burlesque put on by Company H. An ice cream parlor in Mission got great patronage, as the thermometer registered 102 and 105 degrees in the shade. However, there was a breeze from the Gulf and nights were cool.

On 1 August the men heard good news - that New York State and the United States Government each decided to pay them from 19 June, the day they were ordered out, until '30 June. That meant double pay for twelve days, or twice what would have been in their envelopes.

Under the direction of Chaplain Wadsworth; a building 80 by 40 feet to be used as a Y.M.C.A. headquarters was erected.

Letters home at this time urged families not to believe stories that seemed to be prevalent there. The boys were not going hungry as reported, and were not overworked. According to one writer, the camp was one of the best the writer had seen in thirteen years of service. The camp site was perfect in sanitary conditions and the food was much better than was generally handed out in such a camp.

The Whitehall Independent July 30, 1986

The National Guard of Whitehall – 1916 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The National Guard in the Mexican War

Interesting incidents occurred along the path to Mission, Texas, and in camp there. Company I was, known as the clean group. When there was a lack of water on the train, they purchased large cans for each car and emptied and filled the cans at each stop.

Their first "southern" meal was in Louisville: fried chicken, peas, string beans, lettuce, corn, potatoes, Johnny cake and coffee, at a cost of 25 cents. Watermelon was ten cents a melon.

The men enjoyed the story of the Colonel who came upon a sentry who challenged him three times. Each time the Colonel said "You know me." After the third time a new guard in the tent yelled, "Say Bill, don't be arguing with him. Just shoot him."

In letters home the constant requests were for tobacco, cigarettes, writing paper, envelopes, and stamps. Miss Sabo of Whitehall conducted a tag sale to raise money to send these materials. When Fred Williams was discharged from the Company, about the first thing he did when he reached Whitehall was to send back a big box containing especially the writing supplies.

In Memphis ten thousand people lined the streets and the women and pretty girls served lunch in the cars. Their hospitality was rewarded by a parade before bath and lunch with the First Battalion Band leading.

In Louisville the men went into a store to buy crackers. The proprietor would take no money but pressed on them cheese, bologna sandwiches, pie, and milk. A lad in Company D lost his wallet. It was returned to him at the train by special messenger. Six boys spent a total of fifteen cents for their day. A resident motored them about town and a lunch counter man refused to take their money.

At Temple, West Virginia, boys made themselves at home on every porch. The reporter for back home warned the girls there to write or the Southern beauties would steal their soldiers.

When there was no drill, many of the men took walks. In that day they learned how bananas grow and that oranges can be picked all year in the right climate. On such a walk one wanted to wash his hands in the Rio Grande. In so doing he fell into the stream which at that point was not large or deep and was pulled out by his two companions. Just before a storm one day a cloud of butterflies went over camp (*likely the Monarch Butterfly kb*). Someone said they were thicker than any snowstorm they ever saw in Whitehall.

Back in Whitehall a big fair was being planned for October 9-11 for the boys. But it was decided that they needed the money now, so a committee collected a sum to be sent on to Mission to be made up after the fair was held.

On 25 August a one hundred mile hike was instituted. Camp life had become irksome and the men were delighted with the change. They had been prepared with short ten mile hikes which could be done in a little over an hour. They carried one day's ration and canteens were kept full from station to station. They carried hard tack which the Spanish War veterans among them showed how to make a meal with by wrapping them with slices of bacon and holding them in a tin over a fire.

This was a time when Company C was without officers for a short time. Captain Sullivan was incapacitated with sore feet and blisters; First Lieutenant Elwood Groesbeck had prostrated with the heat; and First Sergeant Edgar Farrington suffered a heat stroke all on this same one hundred mile hike.

The Whitehall Independent August 6, 1986

The National Guard of Whitehall – 1916 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The National Guard in the Mexican War

In August 1916 rumors were rife. It was said that General Pershing and his troops were on the way to occupy the Mission site. Four days later a call to arms caused great excitement, but the call was only for a drill. Two days later it was thought the call wouldn't come till spring. Then the word was that the troops would be kept at the border as long as was necessary. Secretary of War Baker said that the presence of the militia on the border had restored order and given a higher degree of safety and security to the lives of the people. The militia would be kept as long as it was performing a valuable service.

At this time, 25 August, the 100 mile hike was begun and lasted until 6 September. Company C returned after twelve days, 47 hours ahead of time. It had had a hard tramp, sometimes in water knee high and with plenty of mosquitoes. The men in Company I were praised by Regiment officers for their conduct and excellent discipline without their commanding officers.

A fear of an epidemic of paratyphoid fever arose and the camp was moved in trucks fourteen miles further south to Sterling's Ranch. Here there were heavy showers and deep mud. The move was inexplicable because at Mission the ground was well cared for with wood floors; there were cots and sanitary conditions, the drinking water at Sterling's Ranch became unsanitary and the camp was again moved by a comfortable tramp to Pharr on 13 September.

The Whitehall Village officials and the Mayor of Troy were "pulling strings" to get Company I home but the Third Regiment was sent home instead of the Second. Then on Monday, 20 September, word was received that the Second Regiment would be homeward bound. The men were at supper. The mess kits were thrown to the top of the walls; hats followed them. Then there was prolonged cheering and a long procession was soon formed of the cheering men led by a band of dishpans being beaten. It was expected that Company C would go to Whitman Camp but military orders came through that the Regiment would go straight through to Troy.

On 21 September the trains left Pharr for home. There were no daily or weekly reports of the progress as there had been on the way south. The route was Pharr to Houston, to Baton Rouge and New Orleans. Here four boys missed the train and were left behind. On to Atlanta, Raleigh, Richmond, Washington, through New York City to Albany. After six days of travel it was Whitehall at last at 8 p.m. to be greeted by thousands of people tearful with joy in contrast to the sorrowful departure back in June.

On 19 July at Mission there had been a wholesale promotion in every company of the Second Regiment. Many men in Company I were recipients, moving from corporals to sergeants and from privates to first class privates, forty-one in all. These will show in short biographies of members of Company I.

The Whitehall Independent

August 13, 1986

The National Guard of Whitehall – 1916

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The National Guard in the Mexican War

The Boys were coming home! Word was received Monday, 18 September, that they would leave Pharr, Texas, probably on 28 September. The Second New York Infantry, being one of the first to return Company I was in the third battalion, familiarly known as the Milk battalion, being composed of Companies M - Amsterdam; I - Whitehall; L - Saratoga; and K - Glens Falls.

The Village was all agog to give the men a rousing welcome. The Trustees promised to cooperate in making it a big affair. Village President John J. Manville sent

out a letter for a mass meeting in the World-in-Motion Theatre, located at the back of the Key Bank and Pippo's Store with entrance on Saunders Street, to make specific plans.

The actual date was 27 September, Wednesday night, when the joyous welcome was given. Several thousand people were at the railroad station. They with several organizations had been escorted to the station by the Italian Band. The telegraph operator reported the timing - the train had left Saratoga Springs; it had reached Fort Edward, then Fort Ann, and then Comstock. And then a great shout went up - "They are coming!" Pandemonium broke loose - shouts, cheers, hand clapping, bombs fired, church and fire bells rang endlessly. Detraining, the men were seized and smothered with affection. When order was finally restored, the guardsmen were ordered to fall in and march to the armory.

It was a monster parade that moved through South Main (Broadway) to Broad Street (North Main) and countered to Saunders Street where it crossed the bridge to Williams Street to reach the armory. Nearly every building was lighted and colored fires burned. As it passed fire headquarters (Village Building), the bell was rung continuously and the siren whistles on the fire apparatus shrieked.

At the armory, Captain Sullivan admonished the boys to restrain from visiting the saloons as they were still in the service of the Federal Government. On dismissal they were claimed by their families and went home for the night. The Saranac members spent the night in the armory.

The composition of the parade that preceded the Guard was the important officials of the Village. Grand Marshal was Thomas A. Paterson and his aides; color bearer with the public safety committee; Italian Band; the Spanish American War Veterans; the Maccabee Rifle Team, the citizens, and Admiral W.P. Potter with the clergy.

On Thursday, Company I was given a splendid dinner by the citizens of Whitehall. Furnished by the citizens, it was put on by the women of the community, five from each of the church societies, with Mrs. Fred Brett, Chair.

At 7 p.m., after a short drill, all were seated at long tables. Invocation was given by Rev. Clarence E. Quinn, Trinity Church. The main speaker was the Village President who related the service of Whitehall men in the Civil War, the Spanish American War and in these last three months at the Mexican Border. Only a few had been ill and none had died. All were in good health. This was followed by words from each of the Company officers. Dancing followed the dinner until midnight and the reception for Company I "passed into history".

The Whitehall Independent **August 20, 1986**

The National Guard of Whitehall – 1916 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Tea Table Talk

Let's meet'm at the threshold
Homeward bound the guardsmen!

Brave boys we long to see;
We'll give them such a reception
"Twill live to eternity.

We'll meet them at the threshold,
Then they'll readily understand
How hearty is our greeting
When we grasp their outstretched hand.

Mother, wife, sister, sweetheart,
With moistened eyes now dry
Will unite to make this welcome
Most joyous to Company I.

Let's ring the bells and beat the drums
And fling to the breeze Old Glory large and small
As Captain Sullivan's brave soldier boys
Come marching back to dear Whitehall.

The following information about the members of Company I who went to the Mexican border comes from data written by Captain Herman E. Sullivan in 1918 expressly for Historian Clarence E. Holden. This record may nudge some descendants of the National Guard to collect knowledge and mementoes of this service at the Border. Captain Herman Sullivan. At the first meeting with Captain Isburgh at the reorganization of Company I in February 1916 Herman Sullivan was offered the captaincy. After a week of deliberation, and against the advice of friends and family, he accepted the position. He was commissioned 1 May 1916 by Major Pateman but took charge in February. Captain Kelly, his predecessor, had not yet been transferred from the Company. Thus Captain Sullivan's commission was dated later than his two lieutenants. He chose for his lieutenants John R. McLaughlin and John Cleveland Robinson Hall.

Captain Sullivan was born 22 May 1874 and educated in Whitehall Schools. He became a member of his father's firm, J&H Sullivan & Co. and at his father's death became sole proprietor. Herman was a musician with an excellent voice, performing in quartets and in the operas put on in Whitehall. His scrapbooks in the Research Library contain his many appearances. He ran the popular World-in-Motion. He was a prominent citizen, especially in the Odd Fellows, the Masons, and fire mantic organizations. He had excellent executive ability and discipline to make ideal soldiers.

The first month of his captaincy was occupied with the reorganization of Company I, obtaining recruits and supervising the Company. He was well liked by the men, evidenced by his fairness in all relationships. With the help of his two lieutenants he was able to smooth all rough edges. He was noted for living up to all of his promises.

The Whitehall Independent
August 27, 1986

The National Guard of Whitehall
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

When the call came for the National Guard to participate at the Mexican Border in June 1916, Captain Herman E. Sullivan stepped up its training. He wanted a full quota of men. One of the first acts he accomplished was going personally to Saranac Lake where he swore in thirty men from that community.

At camp in Mission, Texas, his ingenuity provided the tent floors of packed sand. He accompanied the men on the hundred mile hike. The first day out he acquired blistered feet to which his socks stuck. Later he bruised a foot by striking it against a stump. He persisted in the march and returned to camp only when Colonel Andrews made it a direct order. While at Camp Whitman he was informed of the birth of a son.

Shortly after Company I returned home, the number of the Regiment was changed from New York Second to 105th United States and made a part of the 27th Division. Captain Sullivan went with the Company in World War I where the Division was very active in one of the British armies. On his return to Whitehall he wrote the account of Company I in its three month sojourn to the Mexican Border with short biographies of the men.

John R. McLaughlin was elected First Lieutenant 16 February 1916 with Captain Sullivan and Second Lieutenant John Cleveland Robinson Hall. John was a native of Granville but had lived about eight years in Whitehall. A graduate of Albany Business College he had held positions in the railroad and lumber companies. At election he was a teller in the National Bank, an auditor of Whitehall Cooperative Savings and Loan Association, and a past Grand Knight of Knights of Columbus. He was a very popular young man of ability and character.

Lieutenant McLaughlin was on duty at the Whitehall firing range when the call for duty at the Border came. He went with Company I to Camp Whitman. On examination there he failed the physical test and was sent home. Here he was on the committee with Charles Hurtibus to raise \$150 to be divided equally among the boys at Camp Whitman so they could have money to spend.

The Whitehall Independent
September 3, 1986

The National Guard of Whitehall
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The National Guard - Biographies

Elwood O. Groesbeck succeeded John R. McLaughlin as First Lieutenant. A native of Berne, New York, he was a member of Company F for about ten years and was an excellent shot. He became inspector of rifle operation as Captain of the Second

Regiment. No provision was made for him in the United States service; so he resigned his position and took a lower rank as First Lieutenant in Company I at Camp Whitman.

On the long hike in August he was prostrated by the heat. Later he was in San Antonio hospital under observation for fever but was discharged in perfect health.

In World War I, Lieutenant Groesbeck was wounded in France. His son was in the Ambulance Service at the same time.

John Cleveland Robinson Hall was born in Whitehall in 1893, the son of Robert A. Hall who was a charter member of Company I when it was founded in 1876. Robert also had an association with Major General C. Robinson, U.S.A. This shows the source of John's third name. He was known in Whitehall as Cleveland

John left post office service to join Company I. He was elected Second Lieutenant with Captain Sullivan and First Lieutenant McLaughlin. When the call came for the Company to, participate at the Mexican Border, John was away for a few days at officers training camp in Peekskill.

While at Mission Camp, John and Lieutenant Groesbeck bagged 25 wild pigeons and treated the officers to a meal. In August he wired his parents that he had joined the 26th Infantry of the Regular Army. On 7 August he was assigned to Company A at Benito, California, for which he left immediately. This showed the possibility of a militia man's chance at advancement even during his short stay at the border.

First Sergeant Edgar C. Farrington was born in New York City. He was in the police department as an interpreter. Later he entered the State Prison Department at Dannemora. At Camp Whitman he made it known that he would like to work for a commission. When the position as first sergeant became available, he succeeded George LaMay, his qualifications were recognized. He had ability in the disciplinary area, was hardworking and well liked. Company I members took kindly to him. In fact, he worked so hard that he had a breakdown. When he received his promotion, he was sent a carton of cigarettes from the Plattsburgh Elks.

At Camp Mission 13 August Edgar directed Company I's night in front of the Colonel's tent before 1500 men. He took personal part by giving several encored recitations. He participated in the long march with its heat, lack of water, and mosquitoes, working hard for the men's comfort. He was sent to the hospital for two weeks with heat prostration.

On being mustered out, on which occasion he addressed the Company I's banquet, he returned to Dannemora. He was later transferred to Great Meadow Prison. In the summer of 1918 he was made a lieutenant in the New York Guard and was assigned to the company guarding Hinckly Dam.

The Whitehall Independent September 10, 1986

The National Guard of Whitehall Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The National Guard - Biographies

Supply Sergeant William B. Inglee was one of the four Inglee boys in Company I. Their father was William B. Inglee, owner of the Whitehall Chronicle. Their mother was Eliza J. Rod. All four sons were newspaper men. William B. was the editor of the Chronicle; John E. was a printer on the Whitehall Times; Timothy R. was proprietor and Davis C. a printer on the Chronicle. William B. married Clara, daughter of Joseph and Marie Beaudain and had seven children.

William had served in the Guard nearly twenty years. At the time of reorganization 11 February 1916, he was a quartermaster sergeant. While Company I was being recruited for the trip to the border, he was one of the busiest men in town assembling the details and recruiting the company.

The four Inglee boys were kept busy by the photographer throughout the I trip. "Billy", as William was knick named, was kept busy writing letters and contributing articles to the home newspaper. On his return home he became editor of the Whitehall Chronicle.

Mess Sergeant Preston L. King was the oldest Guard in Company I when he went to the Border in 1916. He was born in St. Lawrence County and came to Whitehall circa 1873. Sergeant Henry Leggett was his nephew. He was a slater and steeple jack by trade and an armory employee for more than fifteen years.

In his teens Preston followed some of the best circus routes of the time. He was often given star billing for his work on the horizontal bar and the flying trapeze. During his Guard duty he could still perform these stunts, making a 100 yard dash in fourteen seconds, jumping seventeen feet and finishing with several springs. He could shimmy up a 64 foot flag pole. He was the only man who could walk across the armory floor on his hands.

When the Guard was reorganized 11 February, 1916, Preston ranked as a corporal. He was second in terms of service at 63 years and was very disgusted when it was hinted that he was too old to serve. He said, "I expect to go through another campaign when I get through with this one." He was the only man in Company I who had served in the Spanish American War. When Company I walked from Poughkeepsie to Camp Whitman, he was chosen to lead it. He was admired by the boys of the Company who called him "Pretty Pret" and the "Young Old Man" and claimed "he was always there with the goods."

In Atlanta, Georgia, he was run down by an auto and dragged about 25 feet. He was uninjured except for scratches and bruises. He was ready to be angry when he realized he'd soon be driving his own car. At Mission he joined the long march in September, walking every step of the twelve day hike.

Pret was a well developed, well preserved man. He had missed only two roll calls in his Guard service. He smoked fifty cigars a week until about 1914 when he gave them up because of indigestion. He never used liquor and had a "careful liver" in 1917.

A year after the trip to the Border he was decorated with medals by Brigadier General for twenty years in service; from Corporal General for twenty years in service. From Corporal in February in 1916 he advanced to sergeant to first sergeant and at Camp Mission was promoted to mess sergeant which rank he held at mustering out.

The Whitehall Independent **September 17, 1986**

The National Guard of Whitehall **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

The National Guard - Biographies

John H. Shelley was also from Saranac Lake. When he enlisted, he was appointed a sergeant. He had served an enlistment in the regular army and was in charge of the Saranac Lake men. After the long march at Mission his men came back as fresh as old timers. Only one sergeant outranked Shelley and that was Preston King. John was a machinist in Saranac Lake and had a garage. He was large and powerful in appearance but not strong physically. Of a nervous disposition he was always taking medicine. When the New York Guard was organized, on the departure of the National Guard, he was made captain of a company at Saranac Lake.

In the summer of 1918 he secured a position in the ordinance department as Second Lieutenant. He died in New York City of pneumonia, 18 November 1918.

Sergeant Frank J. Poirier was born in Whitehall on the Bar opposite the old Burleigh office. His father, Joseph worked thirty years at the Whitehall Lumber Company. Ten years before the trip to the Border, John worked in the Armory. He joined the Guard at its reorganization 11 February 1916 as Corporal and advanced to the rank of Sergeant 25 June before starting for Camp Whitman. After he was mustered out he was employed again at the Armory. He was described as a good fellow, citizen and soldier, but rather shy.

Sergeant Henry G. Leggett was a nephew of Preston King with whom he made his home. His brother James was a Lieutenant in the regular Army. Henry enlisted at the reorganization of the Guard with the rank of Corporal and was promoted 25 June. At Camp Whitman he was a member of Company I's baseball team. He was ranked as a good, well-drilled, faithful soldier, although full of boyish pranks. He was still in the Guard in 1918.

Sergeant Jacob Sabo was born in Syria and came to America as a child. The first member of the family to come was Uncle Elias Balsuge. Jacob had brothers John N. and Sabo N. in Company I. His father was ordained a minister and in 1918 was in charge of a church in Michigan.

Jake enlisted in Company 1 as soon as he was old enough and at the time of reorganization was a Corporal. He was one of the best soldiers in the Company and on 4

August was Sergeant of Quarters. He became a Sergeant at Mission and was still in the Company in 1918.

The Whitehall Independent September 24, 1986

The National Guard of Whitehall Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The National Guard - Biographies

Wells R. Eaton enlisted under Captain Sullivan at Saranac Lake. He was a conductor on the New York Central Railroad and one of the oldest men in the Company, 47 years old. When Captain Sullivan asked him why he enlisted, he said that his ancestors had been in every war in this country's history and he felt the call of the blood.

Eaton was on Company I's roster of 25 June 1916 listed as a corporal, outranked by only one other corporal. He was promoted to sergeant at Camp Whitman. He was a very reliable guard, a sincere worker and ready to do his part. He had a good disposition. After being mustered out, he went back to the railroad and lived in Saranac Lake.

Sergeant Hugh F. McLaughlin was a native of Brooklyn who had gone to Saranac Lake for his health. He was said to be the richest man in Company 1. His parents were wealthy. On 25-June he was listed as a Corporal and was promoted to Sergeant at Mission. He was a fair soldier and a good fellow.

Sergeant John C. Inglee had formerly been a member of the Guard, but after twenty years he was honorably discharged. However, at the reorganization 11 February 1916 he rejoined with the rank of Private. His reenlistment to go to the Border was approved 13 March. At the time of his reenlistment he was a printer on the Whitehall Times and he laid aside his "stick and rule" to serve his country. John C. was one of the sons of William B. Inglee.

John was one of the performers at Camp Whitman when it was Company I's turn to entertain. His solos were well received with Sergeant Randall at the piano. He had great talent. John was one serviceman who received civilian pay while he was at the Border. During his service he was promoted to the rank of Corporal and at the time he left Mission he was a Sergeant. He was one of the speakers at the mustering out dinner and regaled the Company with incidents occurring at Mission.

The Whitehall Independent October 1, 1986

The National Guard of Whitehall Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The National Guard – Biographies

Sergeant Henry W. Lussier was a Corporal at the time of the reorganization of the Guard. His mother was a sister of Frank Pechette and his wife probably a daughter of Edward Prevee. In 1918 his son, Fernando was a First Sergeant who seemed to be a born soldier.

Henry was a Private at the time of reorganization of the Guard and was promoted to Corporal 25 June before the trip to the Border. He was a member of Company I's baseball team at Camp Whitman. Before he came home he was promoted to Sergeant.

Corporals

Russell H. Brown was in the reorganization of the National Guard 2 February 1916 and was listed as a musician when it left for the Border in June. He was listed as a corporal to receive more pay. At Camp Whitman he was sent into headquarters as a stenographer and did not serve with the company. He was sent home for his violin and with musician Joseph T. Brunette entertained the boys nightly with their music. He was attached to Colonel Andrew's staff and was the first man of Company I to reach home. In 1918 he was employed in the War Department at Washington.

Robert L. Coleman was the son of Richard L. Coleman. He reenlisted in Company I in February 1916 and was listed as corporal on 25 June. He took the examination for second lieutenant in August at Camp Mission in the regular army. He was still with the Company in 1918 and served in France as sergeant.

Leo R. Demerse had his home in Saranac. He enlisted 25 June 1916 as a private. He was a musician. Because he was a good penman, he was made clerk to Captain Sullivan and became a corporal. His place was taken by Clifford Trombley.

James Burdett Godbout was the son of Theodore and Libbie Walk. James had an easy and congenial home life but stuck out the hard times of military life. He was a typesetter and machine operator at the Whitehall Times and came back to that job. He was a new enlistee in Company I 13 March 1916. He became a corporal at Camp Mission where he played on the baseball team. When he received a box of goodies from home he always shared. Whitehallers were happy to see "Bird" Godbout's return to his Saxon runabout. He was discharged in 1917 because of a dependent family and received a pension of \$8 in 1918. He married Cora Blake, a well known teacher in Whitehall schools.

Fred W. Goodrich who had served two enlistments reenlisted 13 March as a private and became a corporal at Camp Mission. He was the son of Warren D. Goodrich and married Grace Walk. At the time of enlistment he was a traveling salesman for a Plattsburgh hardware firm and in 1918 he was working for Doren & Sons.

Elmer J. Houston was the son of Oscar Houston, a D&H master mechanic. Elmer was a railroad fireman. He became a private in Company I 25 June 1916 and became a corporal at Mission. His tent was a most popular hangout as more rumors were hatched

there than anywhere else. He was known as "Knockabout" and boxed with PeeWee John Barton. He had a battle axe swing. He was still with the regular army in 1918.

The Whitehall Independent **October 8, 1986**

The National Guard of Whitehall **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

National Guard - Biographies

David C. Inglee was one of the four Inglee boys in Company I. Although he had served a number of years before in the company, he enlisted as a private in June 1916.

He was the youngest son of W. D. Inglee. He married a daughter of Frank Rock and lived on the Bar. He was a musician and promptly became a corporal. He was one of the Guard quartet of Joseph T. Brunette, James Randall, and Harlin Page that entertained at the Mission Baptist Church on Sundays and at various camp entertainments. He was "built like a dreadnaught" and exercised nightly. He lost 40 pounds during an illness of typhoid fever. On his return to Whitehall, he became a member of the police force.

George LaMay, son of John LaMay and brother of Mitchell, was a good soldier. He left a responsible position in the silk mill to go to the border. On 11 February 1916 he was on the Guard list as quartermaster but on 25 June he became a first sergeant. He was one of the Guard who received wages from home during his service as a call boy. He refereed boxing at camp entertainments. He was succeeded by Edgar Farrington as sergeant but when Farrington left he was made First Sergeant and held that position when he went out in 1917. He was discharged 1 August 1918 because of family responsibility and again worked in the silk mill.

Charles H. Stewart entered the Guard as a private 11 February 1916 and by 25 June was a corporal. He was a native of Ticonderoga and a railroad brakeman. He married Ruth Moore, daughter of Benjamin Moore. He went to the Border. He was a good soldier and went out in 1917 but was discharged because of family responsibility.

James H. Thomas was the son of Captain W. H. Thomas. He was appointed artificer, "the right man in the right place". He was kept busy repairing typewriters and other complicated work where skill was required. He became a corporal.

Clifton E. Trombley was from Saranac. He was on the Guard list 25 June 1916 and took the place of Leo Demerse as corporal at Camp Whitman when the latter was made clerk to Captain Sullivan. In 1918 he was with the company in France.

John Varney was the son of Joseph Varney and a cousin of George LaMay. He made a first class soldier. He was a private at the reorganization on 11 February 1916 and was made a corporal at Camp Mission.

The Whitehall Independent
October 15, 1986

The National Guard of Whitehall
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The National Guard - Biographies
Cooks, Mechanics, Buglers

David L. Bushey was one of the Saranac men who enlisted in Company I. He was a very good cook by profession. His wife ran a boarding house. He took the place of Fred Williams.

Clarence A. Jillson was the oldest man in Company I in terms of service. He was fifty-four years of age and had had thirty-six years of continuous membership. He became cook 29 June. It was hard to get him by the surgeon but the position of cook accomplished it. He had served with the Second Regiment in 1898 and there was not a gray hair in his head. The men reported that he always fed them well and always had enough left over for a light lunch. After his return to Whitehall he worked at the Armory. He was decorated by Brigadier General Lester.

Mitchell LaMay was a brother of George. He was a ship carpenter before his enlistment and was listed as a private 22 June 1916. He was made a cook. In 1918 he was with the Company in France.

Joseph T. Brunette was born in Boston to a well-to-do family, and was a fine fellow. He was a brakeman on the railroad. On reorganization 11 February 1916 he was a bugler and went to the Border as such. In camp he entertained the men, accompanied by Corporal Russell Brown. In fact he was sent home to obtain their violins for this purpose. He was still with the regiment in 1918.

George D. Neddo was a private 11 February 1916. He was the son of Philip Neddo. He was an excellent soldier and was drafted as an orderly several times. He served as bugler. He was discharged in 1917 because of a dependent family. When he returned to Whitehall he was a policeman for a while but in 1918 he was working for the Silk Mill in the Commercial Block.

Harry Battease was French in origin and probably reached Whitehall via Vermont. He was a private on 11 February 1916. Being very good with his hands, he became mechanic. He married a daughter of D. (Charles) Gordon. He had worked on the railroad but after his return he worked in the Silk Mill.

Eugene A. Corlew came from Fort Ann and married the daughter of Peter Manell. He was handy with tools and became a mechanic from the time of mobilization in June 1916. He was a very good buck and wing dancer and so was an entertainer for Company I.

The Whitehall Independent **October 22, 1986**

The National Guard of Whitehall **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

The National Guard - Biographies Privates

David Aubin was the son of Noah Aubin and was a fireman on a tug. He was a member of Company I since it was mobilized. He was not a strong lad and was discharged in 1917 because of fallen arches. However, he was taken into the Navy and in 1918 was in France.

Charles L. Ayers was a son of Frank Ayers. He was at the mobilization of the Guard and was still with them in France in 1918. His father brought him from North Granville to enlist in February 1916.

Claude E. Baker was the son of John Baker. He was on the 25 June list. In camp he played shortstop on the baseball team. In 1917 he became a sergeant and later a mess sergeant and was in France in 1918.

Daniel Henry Balch was the son of John J. Balch, a Wood Creek farmer. In 1917 he was at Barracks but was later lost track of.

Gerald L. Bartholomew was nick-named "Crook". He was the son of David and Kate Fitzgerald and one of the youngest in the Company. He was a good natured lad. He went to France, was wounded, and sent to a hospital in England.

John C. Barton was a son of John and Julia Thompson Barton, and a good soldier. Nicknamed "Pee Wee" he was a boxer and went against Knockabout Houston. He had a "battle axe swing". He was also on the baseball team in camp. He was a victim of paratyphoid but returned home with the company. He was taken from the train on a stretcher and cared for at the armory. He was reported *killed in action* in 1918.

Frank A. Bushey was on the mobilization list. He came from Plattsburgh and worked in the silk mill. He was in France in 1918.

Walter L. Carlin was from Saranac Lake and in the Company from 25 June. Some of his letters were printed in the newspaper with news from camp. He was a clever lad but not very strong. He was in France in 1918.

Silas W. Conorman was in the Company from its mobilization. He was from Kingston and worked on a pulp conveyor. He resisted the attempts of his mother and sister to get him released. At the time of the making of this list in 1918 his whereabouts was not known.

Harold H. Cook was on the roster of 25 June 1916. He was the son of Delos Cook and grandson of Edward. He was an honest and faithful soldier. In 1918 he was in France.

William B. Coutts served from mobilization. He came from New Haven, Connecticut, to serve. His whereabouts were unknown in 1918.

Peter N. Buckenberger was a New Yorker who had been in Saranac Lake for health reasons. He worked in the silk mill and was on the 25 June 1916 list. He was later drafted for the Army. On the baseball team he held third base.

Charles Burgess was from Saranac Lake but evidently he was a "roamer" for he considered himself from Granville. He was also said to be from Rochester. He was in a bout with McDonald at camp.

The Whitehall Independent October 29, 1986

The National Guard of Whitehall Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The National Guard - Biographies Privates – Continued

George E. Doig was the son of Robert J. and Ella Adams. He was on the list of 25 June and went to Camp Whitman. He failed to pass the physical and was returned to Whitehall. He did not go to the Border but was on the roster. He married Adelaide O'Connor before leaving for camp one of the few "War Brides" mentioned.

Charles E. Doin's name was pronounced "Twan" and he had the nickname of "Toddie". He was the son of Ernest Doin who was a tailor from the local Forbush Store. It was he who told the story of seeing a four year old riding a saddled and bridled jack rabbit at Camp McAllen from where he had been transferred from the machine gun company. In 1918 he was living in Troy.

Clinton R. Douglas was on the 25 June list. He was from Saranac Lake. He had the reputation of being a grouch. He was one of the four who got left in New Orleans on the way home from Mission.

Clarence Durkee was a farmer from Argyle and quite young. He served from the mobilization. In 1918 he was living in Fort Edward.

Philip J. Favro was from Saranac Lake. He was a nice boy and a good soldier. He was on the list of 25 June 1916.

George G. Fredericks was from Saranac and on the list of 25 June 1916. He had a chronic case of flat feet.

Charles Fredericks, Jr. was on the mobilization list of 25 June. He and his father Charles Fredericks, Sr. came to Whitehall "To work in the silk mill. Father could not read or write but was a good shot and a good soldier. They were French. The father married Delia Allore and when they returned from Mission the son married Eva Gordon. Charles Jr. was about the smallest man in the Company. He earned a reputation of being a good boxer throughout the regiment. At Camp Whitman he boxed three rounds with members from Company K with Sergeant LaMay as referee. At Mission he boxed with Robins of Company K and three rounds with Private Young of Company G. He was also a good wrestler and had a bout with Sabo Sabo for one half hour without a fall. Both men returned to the silk mill on their return.

The Whitehall Independent
November 5, 1986

The National Guard of Whitehall
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The National Guard - Biographies
Privates – Continued

Dominick Garefa (Gareffa) was born in Italy!! In Whitehall he lived with his widowed mother and several sisters. He served from the reorganization of the National Guard. He was a nice boy who had a habit of always losing things. He married Viola, daughter of Frank Barney.

Dillon F. Garvey was on the lists from the beginning and went to Camp Whitman. He came from Pawlet or Rupert, Vermont. Because of a physical disability, he was discharged at Camp Whitman and so did not get to camp at Mission.

Oscar H. Girard came from Plattsburg with his brother Arthur to work in the silk mill. He was with the group all the way to Mission. He was a pitcher on the baseball team which challenged Company D. At Mission he was taken with a fever and sent to a hospital in San Antonio, but returned in the middle of November.

George A. Gordon was the son of Delore (Cheru) and was called Mose. Private Felix G. Valondry entitled a poem for him "Mose, Our Company Hero." He went all the way to Mission. While there he wondered if it was the same moon people saw at home. If so, he could not see why they were sent to Mission to see it. He was very adept at getting out of peeling potatoes.

Joseph G. Gordon was the son of John (Peter) and had the nickname "Zaggie." He was in the Company from the beginning. On the way to Camp Whitman in night camp, Captain Sullivan said he'd give a dollar to have a tin pail to make coffee. Soon "Zaggie" appeared with such a pail and received the dollar. At Mission he said he'd rather be fishing at the Elbow and declared there were plenty of fish in the canal there but he had the wrong kind of bait."

Wilfred T. Gordon was in the Guard from its mobilization. He came from New Haven, Connecticut to enlist with William B. Coutts. He was the son of William who was the son of Oliver. He was a fair fellow but not strong.

William Gonyea was on the roster by 25 June. He came from Ticonderoga and always seemed to be nursing a sore arm. He served the full time and was discharged in 1917 at Madison Barracks.

Francis E. Hennessey was in the Guard during all of the expedition. He was from Saranac Lake. He suffered from lameness.

Albert W. Hildreth came from Plattsburg to work in the silk mill. He was described as a tall slim boy, a stranger in town. He was in the band since its mobilization and was in boxing at Mission.

Reeves D. Hupman was the son of George E. Hupman and was in the Guard at reorganization. He was in right field on the baseball team and in a game against Company D. He went out with the Regiment later and was in it in 1918. His letter that

told of shipping out to Europe escaped the censor as he gave it to a sailor coming home. It was printed in the Whitehall Chronicle.

Wilbert Hyatt was the son of Tug Hill. He was in the Guard when it was reorganized. He was known as "Bootjack." He played pitcher on the baseball team that challenged Company D. Always he seemed to be in trouble but only of an innocent nature. He was still in the Guard in 1918 and went to France.

The Whitehall Independent November 12, 1986

The National Guard of Whitehall Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The National Guard - Biographies Privates – Continued

Timothy Inglee, son of William, was the proprietor of the Whitehall Chronicle and joined Company I at its reorganization. At Whitman he played trombone in the band and was in a quartet of brothers. When a box of goodies came from home, he always shared. Before he left Whitman he was transferred to the famous Doring Band. At Mission he was discharged because of family reasons. When the boys were feted on their return home, Timothy was on the banquet committee at the Armory.

William F. Jones was the son of William Jones. He came from Crown Point. His wife was an Ingleston girl. He was pronounced a good soldier.

George D. Karker was entered on the final roster in June. He came from a "good old family" in Schoharie County. He was deemed one of the most contented men in camp - got up and went to bed singing. Also he was labeled as one of the busiest men in camp, working in the kitchen. His description was "a picture of health, brown as a berry." His occupation was that of teamster and laborer. He went to France in 1918 in a supply company driving mules.

Harry L. Ketcham was a new recruit in 1916. He was a farmer from Argyle, a small, slight boy, but "the biggest devil in the Company." He probably went to France.

Eugene L. Kershaw was a Brooklyn boy but enlisted from Saranac Lake. He was a fine fellow, near-sighted and wore glasses.

Leon J. LaTour was from Franklin County. The attempts of his father to get him sent home from Mission failed. He was in the Company from the first roster.

Henry Lamphron was the son of Samuel. He was in the Guard at its reorganization in February. He was a light-weight but made a good soldier.

Herbert Lucia was on the 25 June roster. He came from Iron Mountain near Saranac Lake. He was married and always anxious to get home. He had "no bad habits."

The Whitehall Independent
November 19, 1986

The National Guard of Whitehall
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The National Guard - Biographies
Privates – Continued

John M. McDonald was in Company I from its mobilization. He was at Camp Mission where he entered entertainment bouts with Burgess. His mother lived in Troy. In 1917 just before the Regiment sailed for France he entered the hospital at Newport News for goiter. He visited Whitehall in 1918 and soon afterwards sailed for France.

J. Raymond McGowan was the son of Owen J. and Eliza McNeeley McGowan. He was a good soldier. His death was the first one in Company I roster, 27 October 1916, of Bright's Disease. There was a military funeral with burial in West Granville Cemetery.

Michael Madden arrived at the Armory one half hour before Company I left for camp. Captain Sullivan made out his papers right then and the lad had his physical on the train after it left Saratoga. He was the smallest and lightest man in the Company. In 1917 he acted part of the time as Captain Sullivan's orderly and did very well. He went with the Company to France.

John L. Matthews was a very large man who worked in the silk mill. He married a daughter of Ed. Gordon. A good worker who lived in the Old Line Barn on Bellamy Street.

Henry S. Menell was a "son of Peter and brother of William. He married Susie May Pike, granddaughter of Mrs. Robert Jero. He went to Camp Mission. In 1917 he was discharged at Watervliet.

William Menell, with Henry, was a son of Peter. He was at Camp Mission. He was wounded later in France.

Henry A. Mickelsen was from New York but enlisted from Saranac Lake. He reached Camp Whitman but was discharged for tuberculosis tendency.

Walter E. Morse was another of the four men who were left at New Orleans. "Slim" was the son of Charles W. Moore of Wood Creek Road. He was a roughneck but a good soldier. In the fall of 1917 he was transferred to a Supply Company as a driver and went to France and was promoted.

Henry L. Muir, in the company at mobilization, was from Burlington. He was a quaint character and well known throughout the Regiment as he had many amusing adventures. He left the area after discharge.

Edward J. Otis was from Saranac Lake. A railroader, he made a very good soldier. After discharge he returned to Saranac.

Alfred E. Paro was in the Company at mobilization. He reached Camp Whitman but because of emotional problems was discharged there. He was nicknamed Budgie."

The Whitehall Independent
November 26, 1986

The National Guard of Whitehall
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The National Guard - Biographies
Privates – Continued

Herman W. Root was half French and half Irish from Saranac Lake. He was a mechanical genius, especially in rustic work. He built a fence in front of Captain Sullivan's tent in Spartansburg in 1917 that was the envy of the Company. This led to his building a rustic bandstand for the regimental band.

Edward P. Ryan was in Company I from its mobilization. He was working in the D&H railroad shops when he enlisted. Originally from Canada, he lived in Rutland when he returned after being discharged in 1918.

John N. Sabo was a brother of Sabo and Jacob, born in Whitehall. He was the oldest of the brothers. He was in camp in 1918 when the armistice was signed. *(December 17, 1986 - A correction in the account of John Sabo states that he was born in Whitehall)*

Sabo N. Sabo was a brother of John and Jacob. He went to Camp Mission. While in camp he performed as a wrestler, at one time staying with Charles Frederick a half hour without a fall. He was discharged at Watervliet in 1917.

Francis A. St. Peter was a tall, thin Frenchman of quiet disposition. During the first big hurricane when the Company was at Camp Mission he was on guard duty. He was terribly frightened. A doctor, on examination, listed him as illiterate. Captain Sullivan asked him what he did in civilian life. He answered "I am a printer." He went with the Regiment to France.

Francis D. Salmons was a son of Kaye Salmons. He took an airdale to camp which became the mascot of Company I. He was one of the best soldiers in the Company. Later he had charge of the regimental canteen at Spartanburg. He went to France.

Leo E. Sancombe from Saranac Lake was the oldest man in the Company. A quiet, faithful soldier, he was Captain Sullivan's orderly for most of the Border trip. In 1917 he was cook part of the time. He was discharged in 1918.

Perley B. Sancombe was the son of Leo Sancombe. He was a fine young fellow, quick and faithful. He was later promoted to sergeant and went to France.

Fred E. Smith was a fireman or brake-man from Saranac Lake, for a time confined at a hospital in Texas with paratyphoid. He went to France.

James Sullivan, not related to Captain Sullivan, was a good soldier. He was discharged in 1917.

Roger F. Taft was from Saranac Lake. He was a good soldier but not very strong. He was discharged in 1917 as a tubercular prospect.

The Whitehall Independent
December 3, 1986

The National Guard of Whitehall
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The National Guard - Biographies
Privates – Continued

Harry Phillips was a worker in a quarry at Poultney. He was a wanderer. After discharge he married and lived in Poultney.

Walter E. Parett was a six foot man from Saranac. He was a clever kind of man and a good soldier.

Arthur G. Pratt was the son of George Pratt of North Whitehall. His mother was Abair. He was a first class soldier, discharged in 1917.

Clarence Proper was a native of Columbia County and worked on the farm of Elmer Brownell at Loomis Hill. He was a quiet, faithful, and gentlemanly soldier.

Henry W. Raino was the son of Henry and his mother from the Kingdollar family. He was one of the youngest men in the company and a very satisfactory soldier. He was wounded in France.

Merrill W. Thomas was from Granville. He was in the Company from its mobilization. A shy quiet, dependable lad, he made a good soldier. He was an artificer. He later was wounded in France.

Albert L. Townsend joined Company I 16 February. Bert, as he was called, went with the Company to Camp Mission, but was transferred to Doring's Regimental Band and so was not with the Company until it was mustered out. He later worked for Doren Company as a plumber.

Abraham E. Martin was a full-blooded Frenchman. He was a brakeman from Champlain, a fine fellow. He went to France with the Regiment.

Earl S. Martin was of French descent from Saranac. He reached Camp Whitman but did not get to the border. He was ill at the first camp and was discharged.

Lloyd W. Martin was a cousin of Earl and was called "Tiger". He was an athlete and a scrapper. At a movie production in Saranac Lake a landslide scene was called for. Lloyd prematurely pulled the trigger that let the stones and dirt fall. He was one of the boys who were left at New Orleans and had to catch a later troop train. He was discharged in 1917 because of physical disability.

Felix G. Valondry was locally called "Valinda." He entertained the Company with recitations of his own works - "Titanic" and "Bill Inglee, the Company Hero." He worked in the silk mill after discharge in 1917.

Harry Vogel was mobilized with the company. He was the son of Charles Vogel from North Granville. He was a hosier at the round house. He was discharged because of a tuberculin tendency. Captain Sullivan's research noted that the lads with the tendency fortunately did not develop the disease.

Earl A. Vosburg was from Saranac Lake. He was a large strong man and worked as a telegraph linesman. He was married and called home for family reasons.

Gordon L. Vosburg was from Saranac Lake and was called home because of his mother's illness. He was a clerk in a store. He was strong looking, but a weak stomach prevented participation on the long hike.

The Whitehall Independent December 10, 1986

The National Guard of Whitehall Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The National Guard - Biographies Privates – Continued

Warren H. Walkup came from the head of South Bay. His mother married Edward Steves for her second husband. He was the biggest man in the Company. In 1918 he was a sergeant, and was wounded in France.

Kenneth Westcott was a new recruit in 1916. He was a young man from Fort Ann's Hogtown who worked in the silk mill. His mother was a daughter of Oscar Frost. He was discharged in 1917.

Edgar C. Whalen was the son of Patrick Whalen. He was a steady, faithful soldier. He became First Sergeant in 1917. He went on to France.

John Wilbur was the son of Frank Wilbur of Pike Brook. He was an excellent soldier. He went on to France where he was wounded.

Frank R. Williams was from Saranac Lake. At Camp Mission he was sent to the hospital at San Antonio with paratyphoid. He did not return until after mustering out.

Fred Williams went to Camp Whitman. He was a very popular and well-liked man and one of the best cooks the Company ever had. Because of racism in the Army he was sent home and did not get to the Border. After he returned home, he sent the boys a package of items of stationery, pens, envelopes, things he knew they needed.

John E. Williams joined the Company at Camp "Whitman. He was from Rochester and joined the Whitehall Company because he had a friend there.

Amos B. Willis was a railroad fireman a new recruit to the Company in 1916. He married a daughter of Leverett Barber of Dresden. In Whitehall he was in the employ of Emmett J. Gray. He was a fine looking soldier.

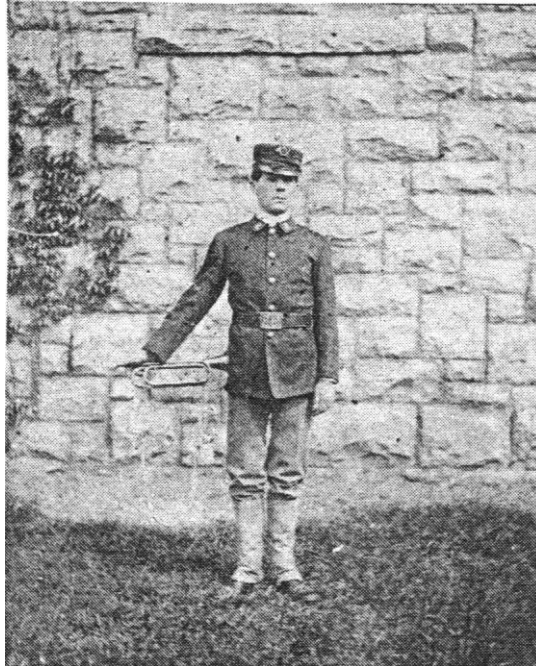
Arthur F. Wilson was from Saranac Lake where he worked as a bellman. He was one of the youngest in the Company. He probably went to France.

Henry L. Wolfe was the son of Levi Wolfe from Granville. He was a good soldier and went to France.

This ends the observations of Captain Herman Sullivan about the members of Company I who went to the Mexican Border in 1916. He knew his men well, especially those from Whitehall, and since he wrote the account two years after the event it would be accurate. It is fortunate for Whitehall's history that this information was preserved by an early historian, Clarence Holden, in his Whitehall notebooks.

**The Whitehall Independent
December 17, 1986**

**The National Guard of Whitehall
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**



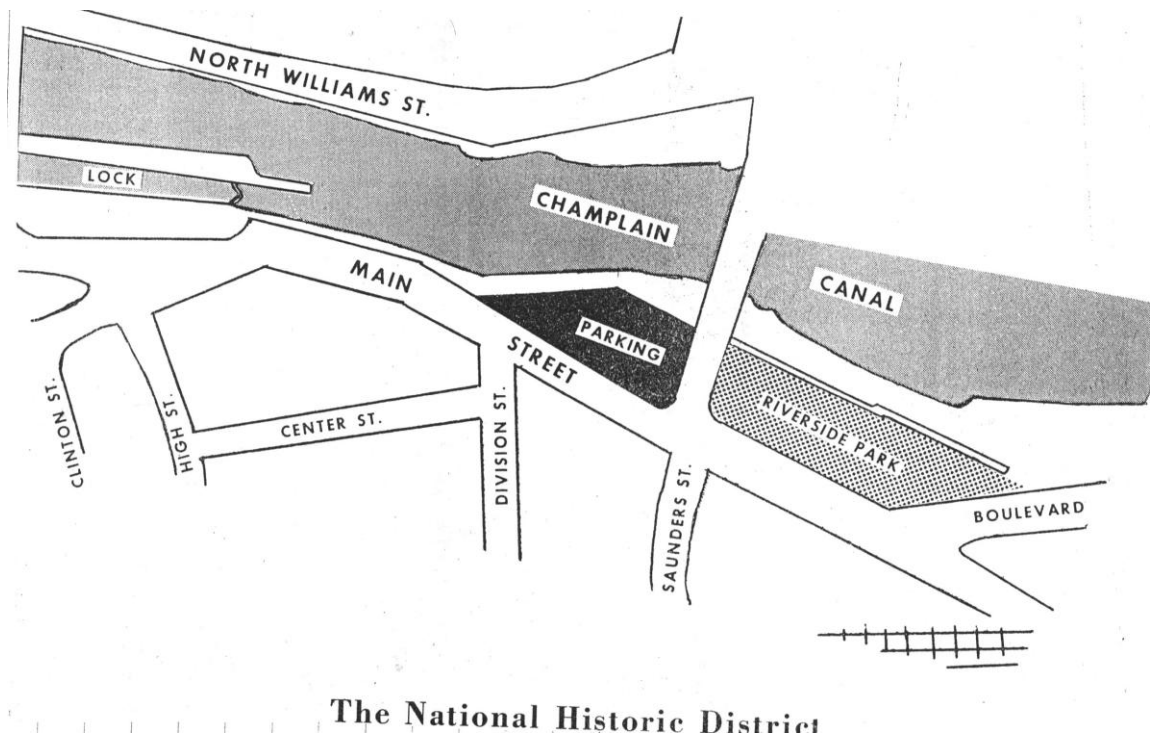
I had hoped some information about these men would come from their families in the way of incidents or experiences. Three comments did reach me. A picture of Patrick King was given to The Whitehall INDEPENDENT by Katherine Leddick. Her recollections emphasized the other stories of him in his write-up. He was at "one time circus clown, a caretaker at the Armory, and loved by every kid in Whitehall." He entertained the children with tumbling, jumping acts, and juggling, and circus stories. "What could have been better entertainment for Whitehall youngsters?"

Mrs. Lorraine Stone remembered delightful experiences with her father's stories. He was an artificer.

National Historic District

The Whitehall Times
June 5, 1975

The National Historic District
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



The Whitehall Independent
March 5, 1986

Our Lost Architectural Heritage
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The ingenuity of man to construct is awesome but on the reverse his ability to destruct is frightening. Whitehall's loss of its architectural buildings is of the latter. "For want of a nail..." through neglect Whitehall is the loser.

For almost a century and a quarter the structures called the Newberry Building have stood on Canal, now Main Street facing the canal which at the time of this building was a source of Whitehall's economy. Before these buildings have entirely disappeared we can

view again their unique features. Both were constructed by the famed Griswold businessmen: George, the south building c 1870, and Israel, the north building c 1862.

The best point for viewing is on Williams Street. It is astonishing to learn that many citizens have not used that vantage point. The Downtown Business Section was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. In 1973 two Historical Society members, Carol Greenough and Doris Morton, had prepared the extensive paper work which included research and photographs of the 37 buildings.

There are a variety of architectural features to look for in the Arcade or southern building. At the top is a cornice that extends over several rows of brick sills. Under this is a row of five arched topped windows, each with its own pair of narrow arched panes surmounted by a circular framed window. Each of these five windows is separated by square columns with square capitals.

Below these five windows and separating the second and third floors is a plain sill course like the one under the cornice. The second set of five windows is double rectangular ones topped by ornate double arched frames. Again this set is separated by Doric-like columns and capitals.

Griswold's Iron Front composes the north section of the Newberry Building. It was constructed on the site of a former wooden building. It had a cornice over a Mansard-type slate face. The second and third stories have four windows with stone lintels and sills. It was an iron front building but in the 1920's an iron banister and the front part were removed and the facade covered with brick. At the same time the Mansard-type had two diamond windows inserted. It was only this part of the building that collapsed under the weight of the wet snow.

It is not presently known how long these buildings will remain standing. We recommend anyone interested in the architectural heritage of their community to take a good long look.

The Whitehall Times **February 25, 1971**

Chippewa Hall? **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Chippewa Hall? No one recalls hearing of it? It was in the Iron Front building owned by S. K. Griswold. During the summer of 1886 the owner refitted the upper story for a public hall to be used for entertainment. It was named Griswold's Music Hall and evidently shortened later to Griswold's Hall.

The first story contained the stores of L. Englander (men's clothing), J. R. Broughton's drug store, Abraham and Beekman (they didn't advertise in the newspaper so I don't know their business), and the First National Bank. The store there now is the north side of Newberry's.

The second story contained the law offices of Potter and Lillie; J. Sanford Potter and T. A. Lillie, partners. The stage was installed over these offices.

The stage had nine drop scenes and drop curtain all painted by the master craftsman, J. G. Reynolds. There were footlights and burners in the overhead flies. The whole hall was lighted by branch gas fixtures. The walls and ceilings were decorated with rich gold paper.

The hall, easily seating 500 people in chairs, was entered from the back of Center Street, as will be the new Skenesborough Mall. Two other exits provided for quick clearing in case of an emergency.

This "little gem" provided a playhouse for all public entertainment. One of the first was that of the Presbyterian Ladies society who held a two-day Festival and Loan Exhibition in October. The long list of articles shown included art work, antiques, and articles from the Revolutionary War period, the latter including a candlestick owned by George Washington. A special feature was a Japanese wedding.

The "Philip Skene" kitchen provided excellent refreshments.

The Whitehall Times August 21, 1986

The New Music Hall Chippewa Hall Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Many have climbed the Telephone or Insurance Office stairs to see the Music Hall. Now we have learned its beginning.

Griswold's Music Hall opened 4 October 1886 with a dramatic company. Known as Chippewa Hall it was located over First National Bank, Insurance Office, Northern Insurance Agency, and extended north above what then was known as Englander's Clothing Store Abraham & Beekmans, and Broughton's Drug Store.

It had a very pretty stage with nine elegant drop scenes and several set scenes, including a cottage interior, cave, prison, and arched room. It had appropriate wings to match each scene and a very beautiful drop curtain with a maritime scene representing Funchal with its castellated hills towering above the waves of an ocean. The scenery was well painted by J.G. Reynolds, a scenic artist of ability. The stage was well lighted with a row of footlights and a line of burners in the flies overhead.

The auditorium floor gradually rose as it extended back, and immovable orchestra chairs with folding seats were in position. The walls and ceiling were handsomely decorated with rich gold paper and the sides had branch gas fixtures to shed light over the room.

The main entrance was at the back, the audience entering the auditorium on Center Street. This was a broad entrance with a short flight of stairs. In fact, to get into the hall required no more stairs than was necessary to get into Hall's Opera House.

Besides the entrance and exit there were two broad capacious exits and the room could be cleared of its crowd in a few seconds. This was assurance to all that no danger need be anticipated in case of fire. Every seat in the auditorium was as good as another, although the front chairs reserved for the best seats were rather better than the others.

Griswold's Music Hall was a little gem. The proprietor Samuel K. Griswold displayed much enterprise in providing a play house that could be used for all public exhibitions. The work was done mostly by Whitehall citizens. The mason was M. S. Smith; carpenter, Louis LaCasse; decorating and painting by Lester and Bellegarde; gas fitting, Wood and Hotchkiss; chairs by a New York firm; elegant scenery, master workman J. G. Reynolds.

For many years this music hall was the scene of the Gilbert and Sullivan opera put on by local talent including Lawrence Tefft and Herman Sullivan, outstanding musicians of the time.

The Whitehall Times **April 6, 1972**

The National Register **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Whitehall can be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. According to the interpretation of preservation as outlined by the State and National Historic Trusts, Whitehall has qualifications not only in the history of the Revolution and the War of 1812 within our boundaries but the history of commerce, industry and people.

The eras of lake boats, the canal, and the railroad attest to our transportation periods. The lumber industry and its allied products and the silk industry are a few of its economical phases. Many of our homes and buildings of business and worship represent periods in architecture. Members of our population represent waves of immigration from colonial times. Whitehall has a heritage of which its citizens can well be proud in its past ways of life, its natural beauty, and its cultural environment. It now has an opportunity to bring its significance to the rest of the country.

What is the National Register of Historic Places? It is a listing or a catalog of places in the United States of state and local sites that have distinct historic, economic, architectural, archeological or cultural significance.

What are the advantages of being on this listing? The prestige of being on such a national register is, of course, great, but there are other factors involved. The area so designated cannot have national funds used for its detriment. (Remember the apprehension caused by rumors that a ship canal would go through the village to carry ocean-going vessels?) The area would also be eligible for certain federal funds. Other places so designated have felt its influence in increased tourism and industries. This would follow.

How can Whitehall obtain this listing? An inventory of all the buildings and areas of significance within the site accompanied by maps, pictures, and descriptions will be presented to the State and National Trusts. A panel of national judges will review the material and render its decision within a period of six months.

Who will provide this Information? Concerned Dublin and private groups and individuals will furnish the labor for the project, those who have a sense of pride, continuity, and identity in their community and a confidence in its future. The work will be a matter of gathering accurate and detailed information about places and buildings,

maps, and pictures. The Planning Boards and Historical Society of Whitehall, sponsoring this project under the guidance of State Historic Trust member Miss Cornelia Booke feel confident that Whitehall citizens will give their usual energetic support to a project that will benefit their community. Details of organization and progress will be presented as the project unfolds.

The Whitehall Times April 20, 1972

The National Register Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM NEW YORK STATE HISTORIC TRUST OFFICE OF PARKS AND RECREATION BLDG. 2, STATE CAMPUS ALBANY, NEW YORK 12226	FOR OFFICE USE ONLY UNIQUE SITE # _____ QUAD. _____ SERIES _____ NEG. NO. _____
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YOUR NAME: _____ DATE: _____
 YOUR ADDRESS: _____ TELEPHONE: _____
 ORGANIZATION (if any): _____

1. BUILDING NAME(S): _____
2. COUNTY: _____ TOWN/CITY: _____ VILLAGE: _____
3. STREET LOCATION: _____
4. OWNERSHIP: a. public ☐ b. private ☐
5. PRESENT OWNER: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
6. USE: Original: _____ Present: _____
7. OPEN TO PUBLIC: a. exterior only ☐ b. interior ☐
 c. not visible from public road ☐
 hours open: _____

DESCRIPTION

8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard ☐ b. stone ☐ c. brick ☐
 d. board and batten ☐ e. cobblestone ☐
 f. shingles ☐ g. stucco ☐ h. other _____
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: (if known) a. wood frame with interlocking joints ☐
 b. wood frame with light members ☐
 c. masonry load bearing walls ☐
 d. metal (explain) _____
 e. other _____
10. CONDITION: a. excellent ☐ b. good ☐ c. fair ☐
 d. deteriorated ☐
11. INTEGRITY: a. original site ☐
 b. moved ☐ if so, when? _____
 c. list major alterations and dates, (if known) _____
12. PHOTO: _____ 13. MAP: _____
14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known ☐ b. zoning ☐ c. roads ☐
 d. developers ☐ e. deterioration ☐
 f. other: _____
15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:
 a. barn ☐ b. carriage house ☐ c. garage ☐
 d. privy ☐ e. shed ☐ f. greenhouse ☐
 g. shop ☐ h. gardens ☐
 i. landscape features: _____
 j. other: _____
16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):
 a. open land ☐ b. woodland ☐
 c. scattered buildings ☐ d. densely built-up ☐
 e. commercial ☐ f. industrial ☐ g. residential ☐
 h. other: _____
17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: _____
18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known): _____

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: _____
 ARCHITECT: _____
 BUILDER: _____

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: _____

21. SOURCE: _____

Reproduced *above* is the form to be completed for the building survey to place Whitehall on the National Register of Historic Places.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Holland have consented to have the results of research on their home printed here as a sample of the interesting history and architectural features Whitehall homes have.

Holland Residence, 5 West St. Private ownership Owner: Edward and Geraldine Holland

Use: Original; Facade 1812 hospital for sick and wounded.

Present: residence Open to Public: Exterior only except by appointment on open house days.

Description: Clapboard outside; brick lined front. Structural system: Wood frame with interlocking joints; timbers in the front hand-hewn and fastened with wooden pegs.

Condition: Good Integrity: Front part moved from High and Church streets on south side; prior to 1820; second story and ell added circa 1910.

Threats to building: None.

Related outbuildings: Garage attached; lawn on Lamb Street side.

Surroundings of the Building: Scattered buildings, residential.

Interrelationship of Buildings and Surroundings: Separate lots with homes; own home on the north side and vacant lot across Lamb Street.

Other notable features: Fanlight over front door, colonial type; two inch chair rails both up and down stairs; Christian doors throughout front part, thick boards put together with wooden pegs; front door with iron spearhead hinge extending across the door; upstairs door lock ten inches by three with round iron latch: mahogany stair railing front hall; wide floor boards; outside front door with colored glass on four sides of clear pane; square beams showing in corner of each room.

Date of initial construction: Pre 1812.

Historical and architectural importance: War of 1812er building, hospital; architectural features of the period.

Sources: Maps, deeds, local history sketches, research by C. H. Holden family lore.

As one can see, this research on a Whitehall building will bring forth many historical and interesting facts about Whitehall that can be set down and preserved for our history. The research will be one that cannot be done in a hurry nor by just a few people. Many citizens have offered assistance and many others will give of their time and knowledge. This is based on knowledge of what Whitehall people always do.

The Whitehall Times
June 7, 1973

National Historic District News
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Doris Manley, research assistant in the Division of NYS Historic Preservation, has reported that the nomination of Whitehall is being sent to the National Historic Trust for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

The significance of this placement is several folds. Among others it stresses the architectural features of Whitehall that belong to a definite period. Like other places of interest, it would draw tourist trade but unlike other places it is not a "made" tourist attraction. The buildings are original on original sites.

A second advantage is a dollar and cents angle. Agencies cannot appropriate the area easily as has been done at least twice in Whitehall's history, nor can they interfere with work around the project.

A third advantage is the prestige that a community gains from being on a National Register.

Recently a survey of the downtown business district of the Town and Village of Whitehall was completed; the information placed on required forms and the whole sent to the State Board for Historic Preservation. There it was reviewed and deemed worth being nominated for the National Register of Historic Places". There it will be reviewed again, the process taking about a year.

Other sections of Whitehall can be added to this district. Already Williams Street is being surveyed as an addition. Individual buildings can be submitted and Skene Manor has been so submitted.

The form required for the survey was shown in this column recently. It must contain ownership of a building; its architectural features, both exterior and interior wherever possible; architect, builder and date, also wherever possible. This is accompanied by a map showing the location of the building and its relation to other buildings and a photograph showing the building to its best advantage.

The work of this survey was accomplished with the very willing assistance of the owners and occupants of the buildings and countless other citizens who gave information. The minimal cost was supplied by the Historical Society of Whitehall. The photographs and gathering of the information and filling in of the forms were done by Carol Greenough, secretary of the Historical Society and Doris Morton, Town and Village Historian. The searching of deeds and old newspaper accounts and recollections of citizens furnished a large part of the information.

During this survey an attempt was made to dispel an erroneous conception that the Planning boards of the town and village wished to demolish this downtown area in an urban renewal project. Rather the overwhelming desire is to preserve this architectural treasure that Whitehall possesses.

The downtown business district of Whitehall includes 30 buildings extending from the American Legion buildings at the south to the Meeting Place at the north. This area has been the business street of the village from the early days of the canal and lake boat

eras. Though the area has been ravaged by fires, like Phoenix it has risen again. Now there is a stretch of buildings dating mainly from 1860 to 1908, a great many of them produced by one architect and builder, A.C. Hopson, and made from a native product of Whitehall, the bricks from her two brickyards.

Next week's column will give a brief summary of the buildings that make up this district.

The Whitehall Times

June 14, 1973

Main Street Business District

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Description and dating of the Main Street Business District have been taken from many sources deeds, newspapers, and old pictures. More information is constantly being found, some of which may supplant the information given here. I would welcome any facts in any form concerning these.

The oldest building or portion of building is without doubt the triangular building at 46 Main Street which houses Edward Chase's clothing store. Deeds describing the triangular shape of the lot date back to 1815 when Joseph Jillson purchased it from the Proudfts and Reed. These men were early land owners in Whitehall who bought Skene's forfeited lands from John Williams. By 1829 Jillson had a store on this important corner lot by the first canal. Its facade has probably been changed some as Guerdon Hardy once told me that an 1812 penny was found in a corner when some repair work was being done.

The plain brick face is cut by five windows on the second and third stories which are simply outlined by the ends of bricks. Two of these bricks can be seen in the Skenesborough Museum very much longer than present day ones. A plain cornice extends from the roof. An older store front with island windows has been kept, adding to the charm of the building. Other villages are preserving the old store fronts in their business blocks as a part of their architectural heritage and tourist attractions.

The Meeting Place at 22 Main Street owned by Charles Stiles seems to be the next building in age. The early deeds trace this building back to Gustavus Buel who built it as a furrier shop. His son, Julio T. Buel, added his fishing tackle business and here made his inventions of the tackle that made him famous. The deed calls it the Fishing Tackle Factory. In 1885 Charles Pike bought the business and building and did some renovating.

The slant roof has a cornice with full and half brackets. The brick front has two rows of windows capped with two rows of brick with gray keystones and ending and of the building have brick quoins. The north side of the building has a stepped side wall.

Gloria and Richard Whiting's building at 34 Main Street is traced to 1815 deeds for locations of early stores. The date of the present building is in the early 1850's. The builder was probably Peter J. H. Myers who owned the business block in this area. It is in the picture of 1858 almost as it looks now.

The roof slants to the front. It has a plain cornice with a row of dentils beneath. The two rows of four windows have stone lintels and sills. A sill course of straight bricks extends over the first story which has been somewhat modified.

The Whitehall Times
June 21, 1973

Main Street Business District
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Official word has been received from the division for Historic Preservation in the New York State Parks and Recreation that the Whitehall Historic district has been approved for nomination as a site worthy of inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. The buildings being described in this column are the ones in the first district presented.

Building was extensive in the 1860's. Disastrous fires had occurred but all new construction did not result directly from them.

At the south end of the Main Street Business district, John Brett erected the present American Legion home on the site of his former stone building. This has already been described in this paper.

At the corner of Division and Main and Center streets is Edward Williams building at 90 Main Street. One of two oldest bank buildings of early Whitehall, it is still designated as the Bank Building in deeds. Its name was the National Bank of Whitehall. The building has a metal hip roof. The brick walls are accented by cement quoins on all corners. The windows and doors on its three stories have stone lintels and sills as has the basement windows. The third floor interior has reminders of the Music Hall Theater ticket office which was used until the 1920's. It is closely allied in construction with the Arcade Building next north which housed the auditorium of the theater.

The Arcade Building was erected by George Griswold. The entrance from it to parts of the Williams' building makes one think it was constructed at the same time. It has a slanting metal roof. The cornice has double brackets. Its corner quoins are the same and the eight windows each on the second and third floors have the same lintels and sills.

The O'Brien Building at 58 Main Street has been altered since its early days of the 1860's but many of the architectural features have been kept. After the Bank of Whitehall was dissolved the directors of the second bank referred to as the Old National Bank, constructed a three story building. The third story has been removed leaving only the false cornice and the sills. The interior was changed but the present third story has the old slightly rounded windows with masonry ornamental lintels and sills. Decorative panels cross the present second story which is supported by three Corinthian columns which were used so often in the fronts of early bank buildings. Mr. O'Brien tore out the huge vault that the bank part contained. This bank was also known at some time as the Robert Cook Bank.

In 1862 Andrew Anderson built on the site of a former wooden building one of the two iron front buildings that the business section has. This construction is a rarity now in architecture. George Moulton now owns the Anderson Building, changing the name only slightly from Anderson Hall as it was formerly known. The original first floor use was a drug store. The upper story housed the hall which saw lively dances, theatrical productions and fairs. It was Whitehall's armory for a time where the Burleigh Corps drilled.

Its mansard face of slate on the attic floor is topped by a cornice with three dormers round arched windows. Below is a cornice with ornamental brackets. Its second and third stories had round arched windows capped with two layers of brick. Although the eagle and gold top decorations are gone, it still is an imposing piece of architecture.

The second iron front building is till often called Griswold's Iron Front. It was built in 1862 by Israel Griswold as a general store and, as was Anderson Hall, on the site of former wooden building. It has a cornice over a mansard type slate face with two diamond shaped windows. The second and third story four windows have stone lintels and sills.

The Whitehall Times

July 12, 1973

More Historic Site Buildings

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

More Historic site Buildings:

Chase's Grocery; by 1865 Thomas T. Vaughan had erected at present 42 Main Street, (then Broad) a new brick store and house, which building is shown on the 1866 map of Whitehall.

Familiar names are attached to this property: Fannie Williams, Henry G. Burleigh, Robbins M. Witherbee, J. Sanford Potter, Joseph and Catherine Potter, Lillie Potter and Henry Neddo. Called at various times the Vaughn House and hotel, the Potter and Lillie building, and Neddo's store, it is now known as Chase's Grocery Store.

Its brick facade has a variety of decorations. At the top of the building are five string courses of brick decorations, each different from the others. On the second and third floors are six windows arched and capped by two rows of brick, the second row ending with side extensions. The two floors are separated by a row of dentils. Full length of the building at each corner are pilasters with brick decorations that resemble the ones at the window sides. Above the first floor is a sill course of brick. The front island windows are separated by the front door.

At 28 Main Street is the present E. & R. Beckwith Building. This building belongs to the 1860 period also. On the 1866 map the property is listed as William McGee's.

The cornice at the top is bracketed. Under that is an interesting development of four inset decorated panels. The four windows on the second and third floors have a vertical brick row over the tops. The front south side has two Ionic columns while the two large windows and door at the north are separated by Doric columns.

The next building in age is the present The Bank, at the corner of Main and Saunders streets, which came into being in 1873. The institution opened its doors in July. It was a brick building 24 by 40 feet and had a marble step entrance on Main Street (Canal). This entrance was changed to the present corner one. The building was at the north end of Hall's Hotel but was not destroyed in 1876 when the hotel burned. The bank has a brick cornice with a row of dentils. On Saunders Street the second and third floor five plain windows have brick lintels and sills. The first floor has a simple marble facing with half columns at each side of the windows. Its first interior wood was ash and walnut, some of which was kept in the recent remodeling.

The southern part of the present Arcade Building, built in the 1870's by George Griswold is a surprise architectural structure. Viewed from Williams Street, the best vantage point for seeing almost all of the Main Street buildings, its different features cannot be fully appreciated. One has to do some neck-bending almost under the building front itself.

A plain cornice extends from the third floor. The third floor five windows have arched tops, each with its own pair of narrow arched panes surmounted by a circular framed window. Each of the five window pairs is separated by square columns a sill course separates the second and third floors, like the one under the cornice.

The set of five windows on the second floor has double rectangular windows topped by an ornate double arched frame work. These in turn are separated by Doric-like style columns.

In 1876 Hall's Hotel was destroyed by fire. This left a large space extending south from The Bank. John H. Sullivan, who had a grocery store in the northern end of town, was extremely anxious to relocate in this area. Accordingly he purchased the land where Pippo's hardware now stands and hired Almon Chandler Hopson to draw up specifications for a building and to construct it. Vincent Pippo has the original handwritten specifications in his possession. The work was done in 1877-1878. The building is reminiscent of Edward William's' and the Griswold Building in that it is constructed in conjunction with the building next to it. Entrance to the hardware's upper story is from Saunders Street.

This building has a false pediment with a triple layer of decorative brick work. A circular air vent in the peak is outlined with a single row of bricks. The four windows of the third story have rounded tops outlined with a double row of bricks. The second story windows have curved tops outlined with double rows of bricks ending in a pendant design.

Many of these buildings have interior aspects that are of interest. This store has kept the hand operated freight elevator with beautiful paneled oak doors. In the rear section on the wall are penciled actors signatures written there in the days of the World-in-Motion Theater.

The Whitehall Times
May 23, 1974

Skene Manor
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



Photo by K Bartholomew (#05)

Anniversary Bells: Mr. and Mrs. Curtis H. LeRoy, May 26; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bergmeier, May 27.

Skene Manor A National Historic Site

With a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction the owners of Skene Manor, Leo and Sis Mulholland; Supervisor Horace Scott; May and John Day; Town and Village Historian Doris Morton; and First Vice President of the Historical Society of Whitehall Carol Greenough each received an official notification that Skene Manor was entered on the National Register of Historic Places May 2, 1974. The letter from Lewis C. Rubenstein, National Register Supervisor, Division of New York State Parks and Recreation was received May 17.

This recognition is a signal honor, not lightly nor easily come by. The steps to achieve this designation are definitely outlined by the State and the National Historic Trust committees. The story of the required research will be given in succeeding columns. The interest of visitors to Skenesborough Museum in the "Castle on the Hill" prompted the Skenesborough Museum committee to issue its fifth commemorative plate on that building.

Receiving from Mrs. Doris Manley, of the New York State Historic Trust, the necessary forms, Carol Greenough and Doris Morton undertook the research necessary to complete them. Information required included definite location of the site according to official maps and descriptions, photographs of exterior and interior, sketches of floor plans, alterations and additions, historical and architectural information, biographical

sketches of all owners, and the builder and architect, the significance of the building to the community, and its relation to the economic and social development of the locale.

It is always astonishing how facts for any such research can come easily from unexpected sources or difficulty on persons or events that would seem to be easily available. Many people were consulted; books and papers searched, and interviews held to obtain what is a picture of a structure 100 years old next year. Doubtless much information now will be forthcoming from sources that were not tapped because of lack of information about them.

Located on a six acre lot, the building was constructed from native stone blocks with slate on the main roof, dormers, and towers. Decorative wrought iron one and a half feet high outlines the ridge of each roof. There are four chimneys of native stone, one each on the north and south sides and two on the east. The cornice was decorative wood brackets. There are six dormers with decorative pediments in the peak of the main tower. The porte-cochere on the south side is not in use as the roadway around the house for carriages was blocked off by the addition of the kitchen. The porch on the south and east side has been enclosed. The decorative porch on the northeast corner has no door.

The floor plans necessary were facilitated by the diagrams in an 1876 issue of Godey's Lady's Book. Amazingly the layout of the rooms is little changed. The interior description sent on the form give this information, the features which can be seen by visitors to the manor. A fireplace having a stone mantle is in every room with gray marble on the one in the present dining room. There are fancy Victorian fire screens. The woodwork, stair rail and banister are made of different woods — mahogany, walnut, oak and birch. On the stair landing and over the front door are beautiful stained glass windows. In the front hall is an original three-foot linen-like wall panel with a hunting scene placed below a deep ceiling molding and decorative bracket. There are chandeliers in the downstairs rooms, the one in the dining room moveable. An oak ambry stands in the back dining hall.

The building is located on the side of Skene Mountain, 200 feet above the village from which a beautiful view is visible. The mountain is a backdrop with sheer rocks leading up to it. A small grove of trees lie to the south and a former carriage house stands to the north, now used as a unique dwelling house.

Visitors should have fun and interest in picking out the architectural features of the place.

The common name of the building is Skene Manor, differing from the name Mountain Terrace applied to it in newspapers when first built by Judge Joseph Potter. It is privately owned on a private road leading from Mountain Street. Its present use is as a residence, a restaurant and bar. Sanford's map of Whitehall was used as a source of its location in the village. This includes the designation of the area as Potter Terrace which is on the map used by the United State Post Office for carriers.

The Whitehall Times
May 30, 1974

Skene Manor (continued)
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Anniversary Bells: Carl and Chee Chee Pratt, June 1.

The plates picturing Skene Manor, put out by Skenesborough Museum, may be obtained from Marion's Dress Shop, Sachs' Jewelry Store, Tony's Newsroom, Woodcock's Pharmacy, and Skenesborough Museum.

Skene Manor Continued

Godey's Lady's Book 1876 had this also to say of what we now call Skene Manor: "The building is in the Gothic style of architecture.

It is considered by many of acknowledged taste to be one of the most successful and best residences of the northern portion of the state, although in point of expense very many treble it in cost, which was about \$25,000."

The requirements of application for National Historic Place ask for biographical information on the original owner of the building with the sources of the information. In 1957 Catharine Eights Boies Potter wrote in her spidery hand sketches of her grandfather, Judge Potter, her mother, Sarah, and her father, Rear Admiral William P. Potter for the files of the Historical Society of Whitehall. Information came also from the search of the deeds.

Judge Joseph H. Potter, 1821-1902, was born in Easton, Washington County, New York, graduating from Union College, Schenectady, he studied law to make that his profession. Marrying Catharine Eights Boies in 1845 he moved to Whitehall and went into partnership with William Parker and later with several of his own law pupils.

In 1863 Judge Potter was elected judge of Washington County and in 1871 to the bench of the Supreme Court, serving in that position 14 years. While in that office, he wrote an opinion on the famous Joseph Sharpe bribery case which was upheld by the Court of Appeals. The Reports of the Decisions of the Supreme Court said he had delivered an opinion which proved that an elective judiciary, to its lasting honor, will decide the law undismayed by the fiercest storm that ever burst on an American court.

On 7 September 1867 Judge Potter purchased from Melancton Wheeler a plot of land on Skene Mountain which had been obtained from the heirs of John Williams, who had purchased some of the forfeiture land of Whitehall's founder, Philip Skene. During the years 1874-1875 Judge Potter had constructed on the mountain overlooking the village an unusual mansion of gray sandstone quarried from rock on that mountain. The local architect A. P. Hopson built the home with the assistance of local Italian workmen and the slater Richard Lewis. He then surrounded this beautiful spot with evergreens, flowering bushes, fruit trees, and on the mountain side, grapes and berry bushes.

Judge Potter had three sons, grown at the time he built the mansion but two were associated with it. J. Sanford Potter followed his father's profession of law within the village and built a stone home just south of his father's. A second son was Rear Admiral William P. Potter, who served with honor in the Spanish American War, sat or, the U.S. Maine Court of Inquiry, and sailed around the world with the Great White Fleet. He

retired to Whitehall where he died in 1917. The third son was Henry Potter, an engineer, who removed from Whitehall to Mexico.

The Potter name remains on the map of Whitehall in Potter Street, land for which was given by Judge Potter, and Potter Terrace, by which the area around the mansion is listed on the post office map.

Edgar J. Lowenstein

The second owner of Skene Manor was Edgar J. Lowenstein. He came to Whitehall around 1892 to act as secretary in his brother-in-law's Champlain Silk Mills. Later he moved his family into the Hall Mansion on West Mountain where they lived opposite his wife's people in Myer's Castle. Attracted by the stone building on the opposite hill across the village, he purchased it from Catharine Potter 1 August 1906. The Lowensteins used the building as a home, installing the gas fixtures and building the carriage house to the north of the home. There was a fireplace in every room. Evidence does not give the time when Mr. Lowenstein left Whitehall for Providence, Rhode Island, where he established a silk mill of his own, having gained experience from the management of Whitehall's mills. His mill was later taken over by his son Edgar who now called himself Edgar J. Lownes.

On 16 August 1917, Theresa K. Lownes, his son's wife, sold the Lowenstein Castle, as Skene Manor was then called, to Theodore H. Sachs.

Evidence of this owner was difficult to obtain as newspapers of that time are scarce and older people who knew him had died. Interviews with local people supplied this: Anna Sachs Washbun who lived in the home; Marion Guerin who spent childhood play days around the building, Nina Taft, a nonogenarian who reminisced, Albert St. Clair who worked in the Rhode –Island mill Floyd Colman retired mail carrier who lived in the vicinity of the building in his childhood.

The Whitehall Times
June 6, 1974

Skene Manor (continued)
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



ENTRANCE HALL – View facing front door (West) showing linen-like panels between moldings. Photo by K Bartholomew (#08)



LIGHTING FIXTURE – Northwest dining room with gas attachments remaining
Photo by K Bartholomew (#09)



MANOR STAIRCASE – With curving mahogany rail. There is a stained glass window on the South wall at landing supporting the arched part of decorative panel.
Photo by K Bartholomew (#10)

Anniversary Bells: Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Guitar, June 9.

Skene Manor History

(Continued)

The third owner of Skene Manor was Dr. Theodore H. Sachs, 1876-1939, an optometrist and jeweler in Prattsville, N.Y. In 1913 he was persuaded to come to Whitehall as there was a good business in checking the watches of railroad men. Here he established another jewelry store.

Since Dr. Sachs was a tall man, he wanted to have a door he could enter without hitting his head. He purchased the house on the hill 4 September 1917 and with a family of three girls and a boy moved in.

A town clock with a wooden face had been in the Presbyterian Church for many years. In 1920 the son Herman removed it and carried it to the manor where his father, though he had acute acrophobia, installed it in the tower. The two 100 pound weights extended to the cellar and it was the two older girls' chore once a week to wind them back to the tower. The chimes for the clock were a railroad bell. This project was financed by popular subscription.

Since the building was so far above the village, water pressure was difficult through the day. At night again the girls had to fill the large copper cistern in the attic with a hand pump in the kitchen. The home with 14-foot walls was heated by coal screenings purchased a carload at a time. The coal ashes were spread on the road.

After the death of Dr. Sachs and the marriage of the girls, the youngest one and her husband lived in the manor for three months. This was during the war time when patriotism ran high. The lead was removed from the clock, making it inoperable and the copper was stripped from the attic cistern. The house was then left vacant for a time.

This information was obtained from the girls of the family.

The fourth owners were Clayton and Pauline Shear, retired state trooper and beautician from Schenectady. They bought the manor on the hill 2 October 1946. Having friends from a large area they decided to make the lower floor into a restaurant and bar.

Mr. Shear wanted a name that would fit the area. After a talk with the town historian, he decided that the title Skene Manor, not from the mountain only but also for the founder of the town, Philip Skene, would be distinctive. This also gave him an opportunity to enhance interest in his restaurant.

In the corner of the bar he placed an imitation grotto of garnet stone out of which rises the lily-white hand of a lady. Referring to a local legend he told all his patrons and had it written on his menu that this was the hand of Mrs. Skene whose coffin had been interred in the basement for a hundred years. He said he had it brought up to rest in the corner of the taproom to form a base for the waterfalls, surrounding it, where the unearthly sounds that emanated from behind the waterfalls could be appeased by the mirth and fellowship of the bar. Untrue though the story is in detail and time, it certainly is a conversation piece.-

The restaurant became famous in the locality with fresh seafood flown in weekly by the proprietor in his private plane. After a period of five years, Mr. and Mrs. Shear sold the place to J. Richard and Marjorie Reynolds and went to Colorado to make a living in ranching.

This information was obtained from acquaintances of Mr. and Mrs. Shear in the village.

The Whitehall Times

June 13, 1974

Skene Manor (continued)

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Anniversary Bells: Mr. and Mrs. Charles Frazier, June 14; Ann and Ken Mickel, June 14; Carol and Doug Rocque, June 15; Mr. and Mrs. Leo Mulholland, June 17; Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Barber, June 17; Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Martucci, June 18; Barbara and Howard J. Jero, jr., June 19.

Skene Manor History

(Continued)

The fourth owners of Skene Manor were Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Reynolds. Mr. Reynolds' occupation was that of a funeral director in Ohio. He and his wife Marjorie were acquainted with the Adirondack area, having been frequent visitors at Huletts Landing on Lake George.

On 29 September 1951 the Reynolds purchased Skene Manor from Mr. and Mrs. Shear and were in the restaurant business. Mrs. Reynolds became the chef; J. R. Reynolds, the host, and son Richard Reynolds, the gentleman bartender and manager.

Skene Manor was operated in this way for 17 years. During this period the business enjoyed a substantial growth, catering to many celebrities, cruising people from Lake Champlain barge canal and Lake Champlain. Many guests were attracted from the surrounding lake areas and during the winter months skiers came from distant slopes.

Richard Reynolds made the carriage house to the north of Skene Manor into an attractive home for his family, utilizing all the features of the place — narrow hardwood

tongue and groove ceiling, hay feeders, and other pieces of such a building — to form an interesting abode.

The loss of Richard Reynolds in death in February, 1968, necessitated the sale of Skene Manor and on 30 August 1968 the business was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Leo Mulholland. Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds then resided in the restored carriage house which they retained from the sale. This information came through the courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds.

Leo and Florence Wilson (or Sis as she is affectionately known) Mulholland are the present owners of Skene Manor. Both are natives of Whitehall, receiving their education in the local schools.

With nine children and retirement from the post office in sight, the couple desired a large enough home and an activity to fill their hours. This need has been supplied with the many rooms of Skene Manor and its restaurant and tavern. Their hospitality and cuisine are widely famous; they have kept the atmosphere of the Manor in its architecture and furnishings.

Leo Mulholland a Purple Heart veteran of World War II has been active in civic, social and religious affairs of Whitehall. A 26-year member of B.P.O. Elks, a district director of Knights of Columbus, a commentator in his church, an assistant in community projects of the Chamber of Commerce, a committeeman for the new schools and swimming pool, Leo has shown his interest in making Whitehall a better place in which to raise his children.

Besides the owners of the building under investigation for being placed on the Register of National Historic Places, the questionnaire had a section for the builder and architect. This information was obtained about Almon Chandler Hopson from a relative, Mrs. Marie Givens; other bits about his work came out in research on other buildings in the village. Mr. Hopson, architect and builder, came to Whitehall about 1862 from Wells, VT. Showing an early aptitude for the carpentry trade, he learned his profession in nearby Poultney, Vt. He can well be called the Christopher Wren of Whitehall, for over a period of 30 years he designed and built or supervised the construction of most of the buildings on present day Main Street.

Besides these building are his Skene Manor, Our Lady of Angels Church, Catholic Church in Fair Haven and one in Rutland. Besides these are Whitehall's lost mansions known only in picture, Myer's and Hall's mansions on West Mountain, Cooke Mansion on the Granville road, and the first Methodist Church in the village. The second Baptist Church (now remodeled after a fire) was also his work.

A public spirited man, Mr. Hopson served long on the village board. Gifted with musical talent, he led the village choir and a brass band. His architectural heritage in brick and stone he left in the many public buildings of the village between 1862 and 1892.

This completes the biographical sketches necessary for the application for the National Historic Trust. There is more on the significance of the building to the community which we think would be of interest to Whitehallers to be copied later. Since these articles have appeared on Skene Manor, other bits of information have come from various sources and will furnish some addenda.

The Whitehall Times
June 20, 1974

Skene Manor (continued)
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Anniversary Bells: Amos and Ann Yell, June 23; Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Manell, June 25; Mr. and Mrs. John Duquette, June 25; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rozell, June 27; Allen and Ruth Wilbur, June 27.

Skene Manor
(Continued)

A main requirement on papers for historic buildings is the significance architecturally, historically, economically and socially to the village. This is the information placed on the form for Skene Manor:

"Associated with outstanding professional and business families, the building stands as a landmark 200 feet above the village on the side of Skene Mountain. Architecturally it is a Hopson building made of native stone, quarried from the mountain on which it stands.

The construction of the building created jobs for Italian stone workers who had immigrated to this village. While Judge Potter and Edgar Lowenstein were in residence, it was a social center. Since 1946 when it became a restaurant, it has provided work for town people, a social center for others and a tourist attraction which has brought many people to the community to spend their dollars in other places than Skene Manor.

It has a circular tower and a porte-cochere on the south side; on the west side (front) it has a three-story square tower topped by a gothic roof with dormer pediments on each side; in the west dormer pediment is a clock face removed from the Presbyterian church tower circa 1928.

A short distance from the north side at the foot of the mountain behind the building is a pothole, called locally the Indian Kettle. This site was painted by LaMont Warner, an artist-teacher related to the family of Sachs who lived in the building. This painting now hangs in Skenesborough Museum. Unfortunately the pothole has weathered."

This building on its erection obtained national prominence in 1876 when it was pictured in Godey's Lady's Book February issue. The article contained the floor plans, a description and price, which was said to be \$25,000.

The Skene Coffin Story

This story has again raised its head in the Post Star of Glens Falls. I have been receiving telephone calls, letters and vocal comments saying in effect: I always thought the story just a legend until I saw your name in the article; or isn't it too bad they didn't let the poor woman rest in the ground? Unfortunately the effects of the article cannot be obliterated and people will go on thinking of Whitehall as the place where a woman was kept "above ground to secure an annuity for her husband," not the historic place that it is, associated with the navy of two wars and the place of the first military action of the Revolution in New York State.

The only part of the coffin story that is true is that Philip Skene placed the body of his wife in a lead covered coffin and placed it in a special room in the cellar until such

time as he could return it to Ireland, her native land. This information came from the family of Colonel Trotter, who was here in Whitehall during Whitehall's Bicentennial in 1959.

Skenesborough Museum

Skenesborough Museum will be opened officially June 23. With the assistance of men from Main Stream the interior of the front section, upstairs and down, has been painted a soft green with gray trim. Floyd Coleman one of the curators of the Museum for the summer has given untold hours of volunteer service during this redecoration and rearrangement of exhibits.

The Whitehall Times February 20, 1986

Bits and Pieces 1922 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Skene Manor

Each time something of "Doc" Sach's Skene Mountain Clock is mentioned a new item is found. It was known that the time piece was once the Village clock. Then it became the Presbyterian clock. According to his daughter Peg, Mr. Sachs, a great distruster of heights, and his son took the clock from the church steeple and placed it high in what is now known as Skene Manor in 1922. This time it is learned that the black background and gilt hands and numerals replaced the white background and black hands and numerals and could be seen a long way off. The next item may be the exact date the clock was silenced.

The Whitehall Times Date Unknown

American Legion Building Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



Photo by K Bartholomew (#06)

Architectural features are interesting things to search for in your town. Knowing them can lead to excitement in traveling to other towns or even countries.

The first building at the south in Skenesborough's Downtown Historic district on the National Register is the American Legion building which has a stepped gable. Usually when we think of a gable we envision a point formed by the meeting of two steep roofs. The stepped gable is an appropriate name, for the front and back of buildings do look like steps, albeit one wouldn't want to climb them.

Another name for this roof type is Crowstep gable — a series of steplike portions of a masonry gable. It evolved in medieval northern Europe to assist the chimney swift in his work and was brought to North America by the Dutch and Germans by which time it was traditional and largely ornamental. This definition is in Dr. Allan S. Everest's pictorial book of Clinton and Essex county buildings entitled *Our North country Heritage*. An example is the Richard Keese II house erected in Keeseville in 1823. Downtown Albany has examples of the Dutch gables.

At least three examples of the stepped gable are in Skenesborough. The American Legion building has on the front an oval "Masonic Hall 1860. The building was constructed by George Brett on the site of an earlier building owned by John Brett. The third story was rented to the Phoenix Lodge, hence the mark on the outside.

The demand for hay and grain for canal and farm animals was responsible for several stores in Skenesborough selling these commodities. These products had to be stored. Cranes lifting them to the upper stories overhung the sidewalk. In the American Legion building before modification the middle window in the second story was a door over which such a crane extended. Another example is on the west side of Center Street owned by an absentee landlord. This is not in the Downtown Historic District but may be added at a later date. The third example is on the north end only of the home of Mrs. Caroline Borreson on Williams Street. This building in particular includes several types of architecture.

Can you find other examples of the stepped gable?

The Whitehall Times
June 12, 1975

Burns Insurance Agency
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



Photo by K Bartholomew (#07)

Sometimes more light was desired for a room than came from windows already built in or could be placed in an, original structure. This was corrected by a bay, or a bay window, on the lower floor, or if on the upper story, an oriele (a word used so much in cross word puzzles).

Defined, a bay window is a series of windows projecting from the wall of a building and forming a recess within; an oriele is a projecting bay window supported from below by brackets.

In the downtown business district are two orieles over Burns Insurance Agency placed on a plain brick face. The supporting brackets can be seen underneath. Other examples in the area are on the second floor of Sach's Jewelry Store, the barber shop at 114 Main Street. At 140 Main Street a bay window was added to the first floor. Others can be found around town, like the delightful one on Division Street.

The Whitehall Times
June 14, 1975

The Town Building
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



Photo by K Bartholomew (#11)

The Town Building is an example of what is known as the classic style. At the turn of the century bank buildings were constructed in this manner. When one entered a village, he could easily single out the bank without the use of its name, as the new banks going up in villages today can be.

When the First National Bank, constructed in 1906, was used for another purpose, the inside structure was kept. Skenesborough now has a unique town building with the teller's cage, bank president's room, and customers' foyer intact with the beautiful wood work still in its original color.

The facade of this building is "busy." The row of dentils, the teeth-like ornaments, help to form the overhanging cornice, which is a part of the section across the top of the building known as an entablature. This entablature includes the cornice, the frieze, in this case a plain one on which are the words Town of Whitehall, and the architrave. The architrave is the beamlike section that rests on the columns.

The columns on either side of the door are fluted. The door itself has the classic pediment or triangular space. Over this is a fanlight in the same style as the windows. The windows in turn have rounded lintels made by the brick being laid in a different direction. The lintels have an added attraction of a keystone of a different material and color.

All this is held in by the pilasters at the corners of the building — the flat columns that extend somewhat from the building with a capital and a base.

Many details of this front can be discovered from a restful seat in our beautiful Riverside Park, made in 1914.

Wasn't the Post Star page on Whitehall interesting? The only confusing item was the placing of the triangular brick building of Mr. Chase's southern store to the south of the historic section and labeling it a flat-iron.

The Whitehall Times **June 16, 1981**

The Town Building **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

With the change of the town clerk's office to the town building, many citizens will have an opportunity to view its almost unchanged interior since its building in 1908.

In the earlier years of this century, a universal architectural bank plan was used for many banks across the country. The First National Bank of Whitehall followed this plan. The bank building was purchased by the Town of Whitehall about 1932.

All the interior rooms are wainscoted with beautiful mahogany (?) or is it walnut or rosewood? Its shine and grain are lovely. The tops of the windows are curved with a keystone decoration. The upper sash has curved panes. The front door has the same design with an added architrave feature outlined with dentils, wooden blocks.

The original hall had shelves fastened to the north wall for the use of the bank customers. These were removed and the front section was fitted with a railing to provide a section for the use of the Town Historian. This is now the location of the town clerk.

The hall leads through a cloakroom to the back of the building to the board of directors meeting room with its fireplace and field stones. It is now the meeting place of the town officers and other gatherings of allied town groups.

At the right of the entrance was the bank president's office, the first president being Daniel Woodard from Granville. It became the supervisor's office and now will house the new computer. Through the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970, the supervisor's office applied for and received a grant. The town has become a pilot for the Automated Accounting System for Fiscal and Personnel Management. Mrs. Virginia Toben will soon undergo an intensive training period to become the operator of the machine.

The grating with its two tellers' cages has been kept in the old bank section. This adds a unique feature to the town rooms. The two large Mosler safes with the big wheels are still in use for town business.

There is a cellar and an upper space over the main room. This has a mysterious feature. How did a dog's paw print come to be in that space with no further clues?

This building is one of those on the Downtown National Register District. It well deserves an inspection.

The Whitehall Times
July 26, 1973

Burns News Room Building
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



Burns News Room



Right photo by K Bartholomew (#16)



Law Offices – Sinnott Grocery
Photo by K Bartholomew (#17)

The little clapboard building, still often referred to as Burns News Room, may have been constructed by Blodgett and Hendrick, circa 1891. It is a small building and until recently kept its small business flavor of news room and novelty service.

Its cornice is bracketed. Below the cornice are three panel insets with a small round window in each. The second floor has an open balcony below which are decorative supports and five windows. The bay window of the first floor is accompanied by a door to the north with a steel siding at the outer edge. The basement was used as a barber shop. With Sachs Jewelry it is one of two small buildings in the business district.

See foot note #1 at the end of this article, kb

The next building in age is the former Fragnoli building of 1899 which has been described before in this paper.

The next buildings belong to the 20th century. The Gray Building was so called because of the Gray family ownership, of that corner at Saunders and Main Street when this building was erected in 1908. It is on the site of the former Mansion House, a hotel owned by Peter Renois, and now houses Arv's Laundromat. The cornice is surmounted by a triangular peak and is supported by brackets. The peak contains the date 1903 and the words The Gray Building. Under the brackets are five paneled Insets. The four windows on the third floor have rounded brick lintels, the center of each having a stone keystone. The upper part of the center windows has colored glass. There are stone sills in keeping with the keystones. The second floor four windows have straight casings and sills with a brick indentation above them.

Two years before this in 1906, the First National Bank of Whitehall was constructed in what is now called the Town building. It is a one-story building built in the classic style, as many banks of the era were. Above the entablature are brick panel insets. The entablature contains a row of dentils below which are the words The Town of Whitehall. It is supported by a pair of marble fluted columns. Between the columns is a central pediment doorway with a fanlight over it. On each side of the doorway are long windows with rounded lintels containing keystones. The outer edges of the building are formed of- brick pilasters. The combination of redbrick and white marble is a pleasing effect. The interior has kept the partition of the original bank with the tellers' windows.

The Burns Insurance Company, as this next building is commonly called, was erected circa 1910. Not too long ago it was a drugstore. The two wooden bay windows arrangement on the second and third floors help also to date the construction. Its plain brick face is broken by a brick design featuring circles at the top and a brick sill course above the first floor.

The last building in this Main Street district is that of 124 Main street, which is now the law offices of Layden & Layden. A recent fire partially destroyed the former grocery store of the Sinnott Brothers. Although the modernized front is wooden, the flavor of the nearby buildings has been kept in the corniced top and the overhang of the two stories. These 33 buildings are the ones described on the form sent to the State and National committees for possible inclusion on the National Register of Historic sites. The history that surrounds the sites and the buildings themselves is of interest to Whitehallers. Many of the details may be in error to be rectified by later disclosures gleaned from newspaper accounts and pictures, and hopefully from recollections of citizens who may be interested in divulging them.

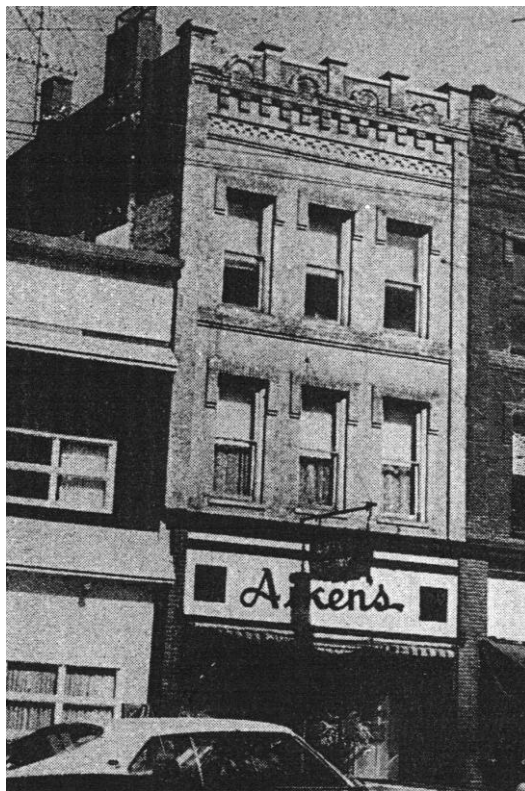
Notes:

#1 This building has undergone renovations since the article was written kb 2007

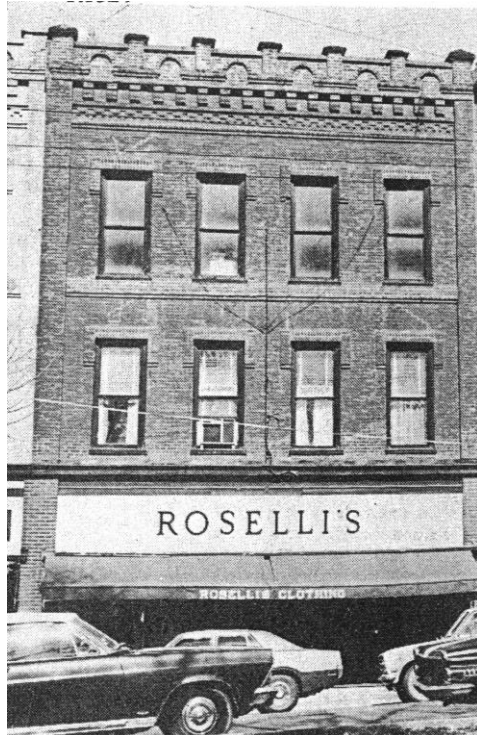
#2 A modernized front was added to the building after a fire razed the brick building in 1967. kb

The Whitehall Times
June 26, 1975

Aiken and Roselli Blocks
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



AIKEN BUILDING Right photo by K Bartholomew 2007 (#14)



Roselli Building



Right photo by K Bartholomew (#12)

Two brick buildings constructed in 1891 differ in frontage only in size, one with three windows and one with four, in the Aiken and Roselli blocks.

The use of the brick makes the facade of each interesting. At the roof edge are crenels, a battlement-like appearance with an odd number of columns extended from the edge topped by a flat surface. Within the top border bricks have been set out from the surface in a, semi-circle to form an arch. Below this comes a sill course of alternately placed bricks.

The next sill course is a double row of ornamental dentils the blocks setting out from the building. Then comes another sill course of bricks laid in still another decorative pattern.

At the outer edge of each building are pilasters. Over the windows are lintels formed of two layers of brick laid horizontally and vertically in a draped design which extends down the sides of the windows ending in a stone block. The sills of the windows make a contrast as they are of stone.

The architect was without doubt A.C. Hopson as his work in Whitehall covers the period 1862-1892. He made use of locally made brick.

A brochure on the treatment of Historic Brickwork has been printed by the Preservation and Restoration Bureau of the Division for Historic Preservation of the New York State Parks and Recreation. Since it may be of interest to those interested in treating the older bricks, part of it will be printed this week and part in the next column.

The Treatment of Historic Brickwork

Brick used in the 18th, 19th century buildings were often burned and therefore vulnerable to weathering. These bricks are very dependent on their hard exterior surface to protect the softer and more porous interior from freezing and thawing cycle. Often

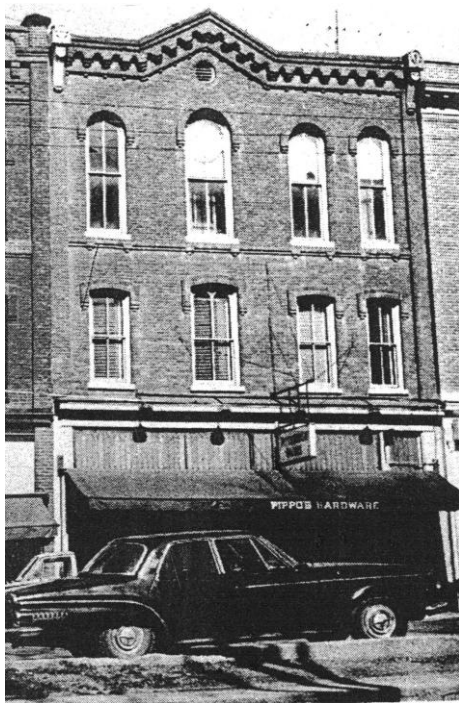
these bricks were painted originally to make the building weather tight. In cleaning historic brick work, under no circumstances should sandblasting or other harsh abrasive methods such as wire brushing be used. Although sand-basting was generally used for this purpose even until a few years ago, experience has shown that sandblasting actually destroys the natural weathering surfaces of the brick, thus exposing the so porous interiors to weathering. In a matter of a very few years, brick which has bee sandblasted begins to powder and disintegrate. For example of an historic building which has been seriously damaged by sand blasting see the Schuyler Mansion Albany.

Fortunately, because the recent increased interest in preservation technology other cleaning alternatives than sandblasting are now available. Water under light pressure is often recommended as the least damaging cleaning technique, in addition, there are now several brands of jell paint remover which has been developed specifically for removing paint from brickwork. The Music Hall Cohoes, built in 1871, was recently cleaned using one these chemical processes to remove layers of paint.

Pointing and weather proofing will be continuing!

The Whitehall Times July 3, 1975

Pippo's Hardware Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



Pippo's Hardware



Right photo by K Bartholomew (#15)

Another Almon Chandler Hopson original is the building of Pippo's Hardware. The present owner is fortunate to have the original papers containing the specifications

and the contract between the architect and builder and the person who owned the building site, John H. Sullivan. The building was erected in the years 1877-1878.

The top of the building has a false pediment with a triple layer of decorative brick work that outlines the shape. In the peak is a circular air vent outlined with a single row of bricks. The four windows of the third story have rounded tops outlined with a double row of bricks. The second story windows have curved tops outlined with a double row of bricks ending in a pendant design like the upper windows.

The lintels of all the windows are of stone with a decorative sill course under the third story ones.

The lower floor face had been modernized but at one time the store had to be entered by a short flight of stairs.

This building has some of its original interior. The freight elevator with hand ropes is still in operation and the beautiful paneled oak doors are still in place.

Continuation of Treatment of Historic Brickwork - Pointing

Only pointing which has disintegrated should be removed. Pointing which is sound should be retained. If it is necessary to replace damaged point, it should be raked out carefully by hand to a depth of no more than 3/4 of an inch. Carbonumdundum wheels or other power tools should never be used as they cut into brick, regardless of the mechanics skill, and scar the building.

When new pointing is used, it should match the old in composition, color, and texture. With most nineteenth century structures, a lime mortar without any Portland cement was originally used. Portland cement was not generally in use in the United States until about 1900. Using a mortar with a large Portland cement content where it was not used originally will create a potentially harmful situation to the building.

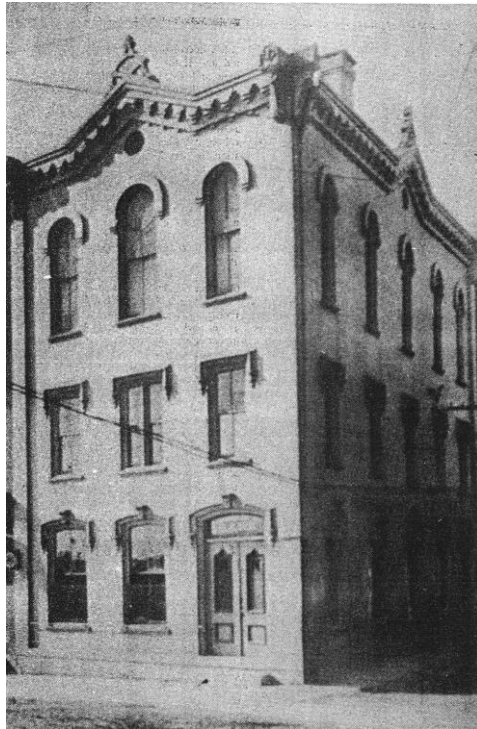
The Portland cement mortar is much harder and less plastic than the original lime mortar with the result that it will not "give" with the rest of the building. This often results in conditions where the brick are fractured because the mortar is harder than the brick. The mortar should be plastic enough to accommodate minor thermal movements of the building. Naturally, a pure lime mortar is very plastic. There are formulas for modern mortars which closely duplicate the composition and characteristics of historic mortars. For further information contact the Preservation and Restoration Bureau of the Division for Historic Preservation.

Waterproofing

Generally, if a masonry wall has been properly cleaned and re-pointed, any kind of applied waterproofing other than paint is generally discouraged. Silicone, which was thought to be a "wonder" material during the 1950's is not generally recommended for use on old buildings. Experience has shown that in some cases it has caused brickwork to deteriorate because it does not permit the masonry to "breathe." Salts trapped in the brick and mortar are carried through the masonry and are deposited in the surface of the brick and cannot be washed away, eventually cause the surface to disintegrate and eventually "pop," thus exposing the raw interior of the brick.

The Whitehall Times
April 24, 1975

The Bank
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



The Bank

Right Photo by K Bartholomew (#18)

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the .National Commercial Bank and Trust company. On 12 April 1825 the State Legislature approved the creation of this new bank, and its office was set up in a second floor building on State Street in Albany.

The Bank in Whitehall belongs to the family of branches that the bank in Albany serves. This bank was chartered as the Bank of Whitehall in early 1873. It must not be confused with an earlier Bank of Whitehall which later became the Old National Bank of Whitehall.

In The Whitehall Times of 9 April 1873, is an item, that says the north end of Hall's' Hotel (approximate site on Aiken, Pippo and the present bank) was slewed around to the south side and occupied by various stores. The place where the "slew around" used to be was occupied by the new Bank of Whitehall in process of construction. Its advertisement in the following weeks stated that the new building was provided with a first class fire proof vault and the best improved burglar proof safe. It was prepared to transact a general banking business on as liberal terms as was consistent with safety and sound banking.

This new Bank of Whitehall started business with L .J. N. Stark, a man from New York, as president and I. M. Guy as cashier. Its capital was \$150,000. Among the directors were two outsiders; General John Hammond of Crown Point and B. F. Bancroft

of Salem. The others were the well known business men of Whitehall: A. H. Tanner, W. H. Cooke, George Brett, E. W. Hall G. Tisdale and George A. Hall.

Business was good, for two years later 12 March 1875 the Bank of Whitehall changed from a state bank to a national one called the Merchants National Bank. Its officers remained the same. John J. Knox put the seal of his office on the papers as national Comptroller of The Currency.

The paper read: Whereas by satisfactory evidence presented to the undersigned, it has been made to appear that the Merchants National Bank of Whitehall, in the village of Whitehall, in the county of Washington and state of New York, has been duly organized under and according to the requirements of the Act of Congress entitled "an act to provide a national currency," secured by a pledge of United States bonds, and to provide for the circulation, redemption thereof approved June 3d, 1864, and has complied with all the provisions of said act required to be complied with, before commencing the business of banking under said act ... and was signed and sealed by Mr. Knox.

The 1873 bank building has had its face "lifted." This early picture shows a brick cornice with a row of dentils; the window sills were retained but the interesting treatment of the dentils; the window sills floor, has disappeared. The front entrance was changed from the main street to a side entrance and the lower floor is now marble faced. The first architect was doubtless A. H. Hopson, the "Christopher Wren" of Whitehall in the 1800's.

The Whitehall Times

May 20, 1982

First National Bank of Whitehall

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Notice: The First National Bank of Whitehall, located in the State of New York, is closing up its affairs. All note holders and other creditors of said association are thereby notified to present the notes and other claims against the association for payment,

Dated Whitehall, N.Y., February 1, 1882, E.A. Martin Cashier.

On 1 Feb. 1882, the First National Bank of Whitehall was closed after a life of 28 years. This bank was established 22 Feb. 1864 with a capital of \$100,000. The first officials were Alfred H. Griswold, president; Isaac C. Griswold, vice president, and William Keith, cashier.

Alfred H. Griswold was one of the outstanding business men of Whitehall. He was experienced in the banking business as he was a director of the Commercial Bank of Whitehall established in 1849 with a capital of \$108,200. Isaac Griswold was a member of the same family and a prominent business man of Whitehall also.

In 1873 the First National bank occupied the newly constructed building at the northwest corner of Division and Canal (Main) streets. In its vault in 1874 William Keith, the cashier, placed the keystone from Skene's house for safe keeping. This keystone had been used in the construction of the Baptist Church basement erected at the corner of Division and Church (Broadway) streets in 1836 on the site of the Masonic Temple in which this stone now rests.

At the meeting of 3 Jan. 1882 directors were elected: H. G. Burleigh, A. C. Sawyer, E. A. Martin, L. H. Goss and Mr. Manville. They in turn elected A.C. Sawyer president; L. H. Goss, vice president and E. A. Martin, cashier. The day after the liquidation notice, the effects of the First National Bank were moved to the Old National Bank, four doors north on Canal (Main) Street, now Howard Osborne's Grill.

Whitehall has had other banks. The Bank of Whitehall was organized in 1829 and chartered in 1831. This was the first financial institution outside of Albany for the North Country. This bank was reorganized in 1865 as the Old National Bank of Whitehall; after the effects of the First National bank were transferred to it. The board erected the building three stories high which Dennis O'Brien later modified. This bank liquidated about 1903.

The present Key Bank was first chartered as the Bank of Whitehall in 1873. In 1875 it was certified as the Merchants National Bank of Whitehall; in 1955 it became the National Commercial Bank and Trust company; and in 1980 it became the Key Bank.

Another financial institution was the Bull Brothers which was not long in existence.

The other bank is the First National that built the present town building in 1906, lasted until the 1930's. Thus we have four buildings in the village expressly built for a bank institution, only one of which still has a bank within its walls.

The Whitehall Times

July 5, 1973

Fire

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

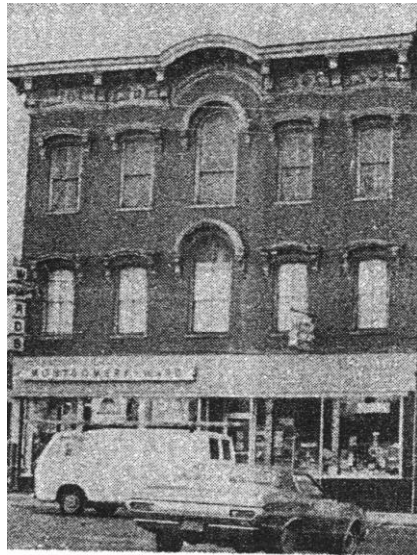
Fire swept the block between present Saunders Street and Division Street in the early 1860's. Construction must have begun almost immediately for the Renois Block (now called Montgomery's) and Sachs Jewelry are of the 1860 period. The Renois Block was the site of the Shamrock Hotel in Ship Fever times. It has long been associated with druggists, especially in recent years with the well known names of Manville and Williams. Its architecture is rather distinctive. The cornice has decorative brackets; a hood breaks the center section. This is accented by the curved decorative lintels of the five windows on the second and third floors, the center one of each now having a round arch in keeping with the hooded style.

Farther north at 108 Main Street is Sach's Jewelry Store, one of the two two-story buildings in the business district left from the 1860's. This brick building overlaid with wooden shingles has a four-windowed bay window on the second story. Its cornice has decorative brackets and the interior has metal ceilings. A first use of it was double, for a millinery store was in one half and a barber shop in the other.

A feature that this store has in common with the other stores to the north in this block is the use of an alley in back of the stores for trade purposes. Written into all the deeds are stated provisions that govern its use. This alley extends over part of the early lane or street called Fosdick Alley, evidently named from Henry Fosdick who once owned land in that area.

The Whitehall Times
July 10, 1975

Renois Block and The Gray Building
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



Renois Block Right photo by K Bartholomew (#19)

The Renois Block

The building at the north corner of Saunders and Main streets, now called Montgomery Ward's, is distinctive in its architectural hood in its otherwise straight roof line. A hood is defined as a semi-circular design in the roofline over a central door in the Italian Palazzo style. Originally there was a central door but sometime after 1912 it was moved to the corner entrance of today.

The cornice, overlapping roof is supported by brackets between which hang dentils. A decorative frieze is divided into five sections between the brackets with a central medallion sided by a geometrical raised design.

The third and second stories have five windows, the center one of each having a curved lintel in keeping with the hood of the roofline. The other four windows have curved lintels with decorative side drapes. The sills are of stone.

The south side of the building has two sets of five windows with plain curved lintels and stone sill. The narrow bricks in the building are of interest. It was constructed in the 1860's before Saunders Street was extended to the east.

This Renois Block, as it was earlier called because of its early owners, has been in use for general merchandise but is more often remembered as the Corner Drug Store.



The Gray Building Right photo by K Bartholomew (#20)

The Gray Building

The Gray building was erected in 1908, replacing a lower wooden building. The whole Saunders street corner was at one time part of the Gray family estate. It is the newest entire building to be constructed in the business district. The name and date are entered in the false pediment — the triangular portion of the roof line.

Below the cornice are five paneled insets underlined by a sill course. The five windows of the third story have arched lintels in four brick layers, the bricks placed endwise. At the center of these are elongated gray keystones, a sharp contrast to the bricks. The two center windows have lovely colored glass in the upper curved portion.

The second story four windows are grouped in twos by rectangles outlined with brick indentations. The treatment by different styles of window shapes in this and the neighboring Renois block make a pleasing architectural contrast.

The Whitehall Times
July 17, 1975

Smaller Wooden Buildings
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



Sach's Jewelry Right photo by K Bartholomew (#21)

Three smaller wooden faced buildings are in the Main Street section of the Downtown National Register Place.

Between the Town of Whitehall Building and the law offices of Layden and Layden stands the two-story and basement building produced in 1891 by Orville Blodgett and E. Delvin Hendrick. Until recent years it was used for its original purpose of a small newsroom and novelty service.

Below the cornice supported by decorative brackets are three panels inset with round windows. Below a wooden sill emphasized by different color paint are clapboards in which are set three windows. Below these there is a wooden balcony. The first floor has a rather modern bay window that was added. The front door has a steel siding at its outer north edge, reminiscent of the turn of the century steel ceilings. The basement is fitted for a business.

The law offices comprise a two-story building that was refinished after a fire razed three-story brick building. It has an overhang for each story, the first one supported by brackets. A study could be made of the styles of the brackets in all these buildings. Each one is individual. The style of this building is in keeping with the wooden building to its south still often referred to as Burns News Room.

On the next block, north of the Gray building, is a two-story building with a shingle overlaid front, a remnant from the 1860's. Its cornice is supported by decorative brackets. Some time after 1908 when the Gray Building was erected its second story three long windows were replaced by a four windowed bay window.

The first story windows and doors that had a wooden overhang with brackets like the Renois Building has been made into a modernized front. The Sach's Jewelry not too long ago housed two businesses, a millinery store and a barber shop. The interior old styled metal ceiling is been retained.

The Whitehall Times

July 19, 1973

Historic Buildings

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Woodcock's Pharmacy and Tony's Newsroom with Jacob Sabo's residence occupy one building that has features of the 1880's. It is the building called the Temple of Economy by the former owner, John O'Neil, when it was a general store.

The front is in three sections with the center one about a foot above the sides. The side sections have six courses of brick under which are three windows all surmounted with a double row of bricks extending down the sides. The center window on the north was a double door for hoisting items to the second floor.

The center section has a cornice with dentils. Below the cornice are three arches with dentils. The outer two arches have a circular window with raised brick decorations. The three windows below match the windows of the side sections. Many of the Main Street buildings were furnished as offices on the second floor. This one still has a suite of law offices. One room has a four foot high wainscoting with a beautiful etched glass partition above it.

The Victory Grill Building of Joseph Bottoni and Mrs. Eva Gordon's building next south are structures of the 1880's also. A fire of 1912 resulted in a changed facade of each, according to a reprint picture in The Whitehall TIMES. Each is a little gem in decorative features.

Mrs. Gordon's building has a panel inset at the top with brick detail. The four circular windows below it are outlined with brick. The four windows on the third floor are capped with two rows of brick. One window on the second floor is capped with brick while the other former two windows were replaced with a wooden bay window with panels beneath the three sections of the 1912 period. The wooden balcony at the south side was replaced by the present iron one.

The Victory Grill building has a projecting string course with a brick design. Below this are two diamond shaped windows outlined with brick. The two side windows of the second and third floors have stone sills and lintels. The middle window of the former facade was replaced by a door and a wooden balcony with open spindles on each of the two floors. The site of Mrs. Mary Barber's store at 50 Main Street has an interesting history, recalled by the names of the store owners who occupied it. This

corner, at the junction of former Canal and Broad Streets, was known as Myer's Corner from a former land owner and store keeper. The first building was probably erected in 1849. After Myer's ownership it became Wait's Clothing Store but, according to a Whitehall TIMES obituary, it was burned in 1884 and rebuilt by 1886, at which time it was occupied by the partnership of Harding and Bascom. It has known several business names since.

The top exterior has four sill courses of different decorative brick patterns. Both front corners have brick quoins. The five windows on each of the second and third stories are curved and capped by pendant double rows of brick. The decorative sill course over the first floor is like that at the top of the building.

The next building takes us back to the area once occupied by Hall's Hotel. To the south of the 1878 Pippo Building was the empty space left after the building of that store by Mr. Sullivan. In 1890 Martin Brodie obtained the land between the Sullivan Store and John Brett's (American Legion). In 1891 Orvill Blodgett and E. Delwin Hendrick bought the two lots of the present Roselli and Aiken buildings, with all the building material, brick, stone and lumber to be left on the lot.

About 1891 these two buildings were erected, similar in structure to each other with the exception that the Roselli building is four windows wide while the Aiken one is but three. The top of each building, which are of the same height, has crenels across the roof edge. The outer edge of each building has pilasters. The two rows of windows on the second and third floor have lintels of vertical bricks with pendants ending in a stone block. The windows have stone sills. Again the stone decorations at the top of the buildings are extremely interesting. The designer could have been Mr. Hopson, as he died in 1892. Pictures of the building show C. D. Hendricks' name across the front of the Roselli building. The Aiken Building was called the Rafferty building.

The Whitehall Times

July 25, 1973

Historic Buildings

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The little clapboard building, still often referred to as Burns News Room, may have been constructed by Blodgett and Hendrick, circa 1891. It is a small building and until recently kept its small business flavor of news room and novelty service. Its cornice is bracketed. Below the cornice are three panel insets with a small round window in each. The second floor has an open balcony below, which are decorative supports and five windows. The bay window of the first floor is accompanied by a door to the north with a steel siding at the outer edge. The basement was used as a barber shop. With Sachs Jewelry it is one of two small buildings in the business district.

The next building in age is the former Fragnoli Building of 1899 which has been described before in this paper.

The next buildings belong to the 20th century. The Gray Building was so called because of the Gray family ownership, of that corner at Saunders and Main Street when this building was erected in 1908. It is on the site of the former Mansion House, a hotel

owned by Peter Renois, and now houses Arv's Laundromat. The cornice is surmounted by a triangular peak and is supported by brackets. The peak contains the date 1908 and the words The Gray Building. Under the brackets are five paneled insets. The four windows on the third floor have rounded brick lintels, the center of each having a stone keystone. The upper part of the center windows has colored glass. There are stone sills in keeping with the keystones. The second floor four windows have straight casings and sills with a brick indentation above them.

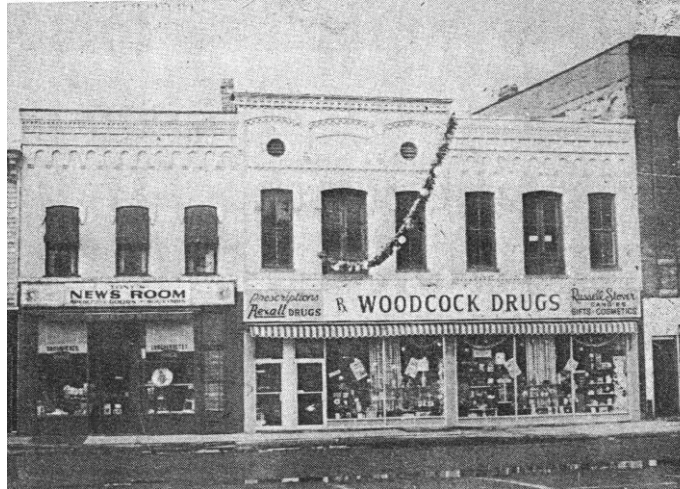
Two years before this in 1906, the First National Bank of Whitehall was constructed in what is now called the Town Building. It is a one -story building built in the classic style, as many banks of the era were. Above the entablature are brick panel insets. The entablature contains a row of dentils below which are the words The Town of Whitehall. It is supported by a pair of marble fluted columns. Between the columns is a central pediment doorway with a fanlight over it. On each side of the doorway are long windows with rounded lintels containing keystones. The outer edges of the building are formed of brick pilasters. The combination of red brick and white marble is a pleasing effect. The interior has kept the partition of the original bank with the tellers' windows.

The-Burns Insurance Company, as this next building is commonly called, was erected circa 1910. Not too long ago it was a drugstore. The two wooden bay windows arrangement on the second and third floors help to also date the construction. Its plain brick face is broken by a brick design featuring circles at the top and a brick sill course above the first floor.

The last building in this Main Street district is that of 124 Main Street, which is now the law offices of Layden & Layden. A recent fire partially destroyed the former grocery store of the Sinnott Brothers. Although the modernized front is wooden, the flavor of the nearby buildings has been kept in the corniced top and the overhang of the two stories. These 33 buildings are the ones described on the form sent to the State and National committees for possible inclusion on the National Register of Historic sites. The history that surrounds the sites and the buildings themselves is of interest to Whitehallers. Many of the details may be in error to be rectified by later disclosures gleaned from news paper accounts and pictures, and hopefully from recollections of citizens who may be interested in divulging them.

The Whitehall Times
August 28, 1975

The Temple of Economy and the Boston Store
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



This building is another study in the use of brick in its architectural features. It looks as though there were three separate sections but the highly decorated top of the middle section that once held it together was removed. Now all three have straight roof edges.

The two outer sections have no overhang but have six very narrow sill courses. Below these are 12 arches outlined with outset bricks. Below these are three windows with curved lintels, formed with bricks set on end and ending a short way down the sides with a drape effect.

The center section has a shallow overhang under which are three sill courses, the last one being plain brick face. Below these are three arches with dentils on the underside. Each of the two outer ones has a round ventilator outlined with brick set on end. Below these are another sill course with dentils on the underside. The two windows and center door have curved lintels with two rows of brick continuing down the side. Each had a keystone. The end north section also has a door. These were common of almost all of the stores for goods to be hauled to the upper stories to be stored.

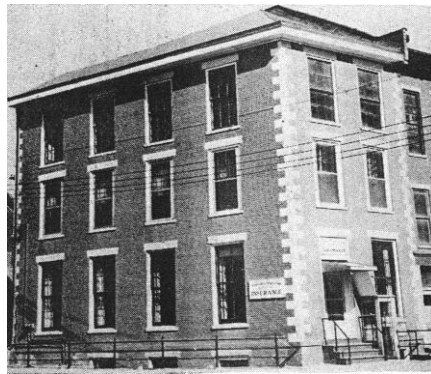
Across all three sections are plain and decorative sill courses above the lower windows. This lower section has been modernized, with the original six curved windows now being straight plate glass.

This is the building of the Temple of Economy owned and run by John O'Neil. The date of the building is in the later part of the 1880's or early 1890's; the land belonging to part of it was sold to John O'Neil in 1892. Here he carried on a store that advertised "dry goods, hardware, furniture, harnesses and saddlery goods, stoves and ranges, crockery and glassware, tin ware and enamelware and the celebrated Lackawana Coal." With this business is associated the jugs labeled with his name, in fancy and plain letters, and the

blob top soda bottles that are important in a bottle collection of Whitehall. Some examples are in Skenesborough Museum.

The Whitehall Times
September 18, 1975

The Bank Building
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



The Bank Building Right photo by K Bartholomew (#22)

Still referred to as the Bank Building in its deeds is this building on the north corner of Division and Canal streets. It backs on Center Street which at one time was a main street of the village. It fronts on Canal Street (*Main Street*). At the time of construction of the building the canal was much nearer the street and Division was an important cross street as far back as the 1830's. Constructed of brick in 1873 the building has the interesting feature of quoins at all four corners. Quoins are heavy blocks at the corners of buildings; in wood "they are used for ornamentation but in other material for strength. In this case they are made of cement and match the stone lintels and sills of the windows and doors.

There are 16 windows on the south side in the three floors and basement with five in the front and back with a door on Center Street and one on Canal Street. On Center Street is a sign of the New York Telephone Company bolted to the building just north of it is a "mysterious" wooden door. It has behind it a two and a half foot square space for what use? Certainly not for valuables or coal since it doesn't go anywhere. It has been suggested it was used to hold articles that the linemen picked up in their work.

The roof is metal in the hip roof style, a roof that slants up on all sides. The north side of the building is closely allied with the building to the north. The top floor of these two buildings once housed a theater. Many people remember the seating that occupied the northern part and the ticket office over the telephone rooms. This section until recently still had the attraction bills posted in its hall.

The first use of this building was that of a bank. I think it was to its bank vault that the keystone of Philip Skene's house was taken for safekeeping when it was

rescued from the First Baptist Church foundation when it burned in 1874. This building had been erected in 1838 as the first Episcopal Church in the village.

After its use as a bank Building, offices and a barber shop occupied the rooms according to early street maps. It was purchased by the Granville Telephone Company and was for some time the center of the telephone operators in Whitehall. Now it is owned by Edward Williams, who conducts an insurance business from it.

The Whitehall Times September 25, 1975

Butcher Block Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



Butcher Block



Right photo by K Bartholomew (#23)

The building in which the Butcher Block is now located stands between the Bank Building on the south and the Griswold Building on the north. The whole corner area to the Anderson Hall building at one time belonged to the members of the Griswold family, merchants and landowners in the village.

This building was constructed circa 1860, its plain brick face denoting its age. Along with the two rows of windows, of which there are eight. The third story row has 18 small panes in each window. The sills and lintels are of stone as are the quoins at the corners. This style was copied in the Bank Building when it was constructed later.

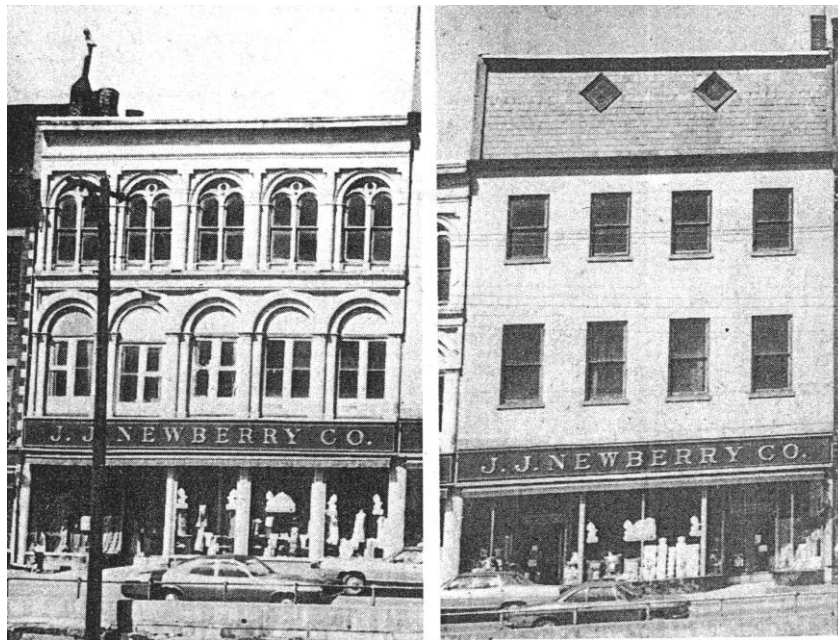
The metal roof slants to the front and the cornice has brackets. The north end has a construction of bricks resembling a step roof. Over the street floor is a steel girder and the front is not too different in style from its earlier pictures.

The Bank Building and this one are closely knit in construction. To reach the upper story of the Bank Building one has to use the stairway in the Butcher Block. Across the upper floors of these two buildings stretched the Music Hall, used into the 1920's. Access was by a door from Center Street.

The sign over the door of the store is attractive. It is reminiscent of signs seen in older pictures of store fronts, except that this one uses letters instead of a clock or a saw, indicating the business.

The Whitehall Times
August 14, 1975

Griswold Iron Fronts
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



According to the Sanford Map Whitehall has two iron front buildings, Anderson Hall and the Griswold buildings.

In the 1840's wrought iron and cast iron were used as building materials for decorative columns, beams, and walls of buildings. In the 1880's steel replaced other materials. This could be cast into large units, especially decorative ones, that could be bolted together to make an entire front of a building, hence the name, iron front buildings. Since Whitehall's two buildings were constructed within this period, this method was used.

The Newberry Building next to Anderson Hall was an iron front building but in renovation an iron banister and the front iron part were removed and the facade covered with brick. The Mansard type slate faced top was substituted with two diamond shaped windows. The second and third floors have four windows each with brick lintels and stone sills.

The building to the south still retains its "iron front" with an amazing variety of features. The roof has a cornice. Under this are five arched topped windows, each with its own pair of narrow arched topped panes surmounted by a circular framed window.

Each of the five windows is separated by square columns with a square capital. At the bottom of each set is an inset.

A plain sill course separates the second and third stories. The second set of rectangular windows is topped by ornate double arched frames. Only an actual observation can make believable this combination of features cast in iron, which an actual test can determine.

(These buildings no longer exist in 2007 kb)

The Whitehall Times

July 31, 1975

Anderson Hall

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



Anderson Hall
Photo by K Bartholomew (#24)

Since Anderson Hall was in the news 100 years ago, it will be described out of turn in the story of architecture of the Downtown Business district.

At 3 a.m. 8 July 1875 the fire alarm for E. W. Hall's three-story brick building on Canal Street (Main Street) was rung for a fire of incendiary origin in the upper hallway. The flames destroyed the top floor which was called Anderson Hall from a former owner. The building had been interlined with cement and was in a measure fireproof.

Within two weeks the third story was being rebuilt and soon loomed above the neighboring building. Richard Lewis, a noted constructor of slate roofs, was responsible for the Mansard face of slate topped by a cornice and the three dormers with arched windows. The two smaller outer windows have lintels with a decoration that from a

distance resemble wings. The middle dormer is larger with a straight top and a medallion at the junction of the arch over its two windows.

Below this face is another cornice supported by six ornamental brackets between which are five medallion insets. Below the brackets are five windows with arched panes surmounted with curved lintels with center ornamented keystones with decorated ends. Later modification had placed five windows below these and a modernized front.

In earlier pictures of the building there was an eagle with outstretched wings and two gold balls that decorated the roof edge. George Moulton, the present owner, plans to replace these for the 1976 Bicentennial.

Anderson Hall and the Griswold Building south of it have the distinction of being the only iron front buildings in the village.

In 1875 this building was occupied by a variety of industry. The first floor had the drug store of O. A. Manville. Through the years from 1832 to fairly recent times there was always a drug store there. Baker and Carrington had a boot, shoe, and cap store in the north side.

The second story was occupied by Sarah Clenchy's millinery shop, Nathan Hall's office for the collection U.S. Customs, and the rooms of the Sparkling Spring Lodge of Good Templars. The third story was Anderson Hall in which the Burleigh Corps held meetings and drills and where a great deal of entertainments in the form lectures, fairs and dances were held.

The Whitehall Independent

March 12, 1986

Anderson Hall Building

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A third building in the National Register District on Main Street in this critical period is Anderson Hall. This name was applied to the building on that site from the 1830s to 1860 when it burned. Andrew Anderson came to the Village in 1834 and purchased a drugstore already on the site from Dr. Keeler. He in turn sold it to Dr. Turner. Edward Hall purchased it and built the present building c. 1862. It kept the original name.

Mr. Hall constructed a three story building. It also was an iron front like the Newberry and Iron Front, according to a Sanborn map. It was topped by cornices under which are five brackets. Under these are five arched and paned windows. The lintels are curved with ornamental keystones. Unfortunately these have been cut across with smaller windows to accommodate apartments. Below these are five other windows for the second story.

In 1875 the Mansard Slate face and another story were added. The face had three dormer windows in the front. These followed the style of the third story with double panes and curved lintels. The middle one was wider with an entablature-style across the top.

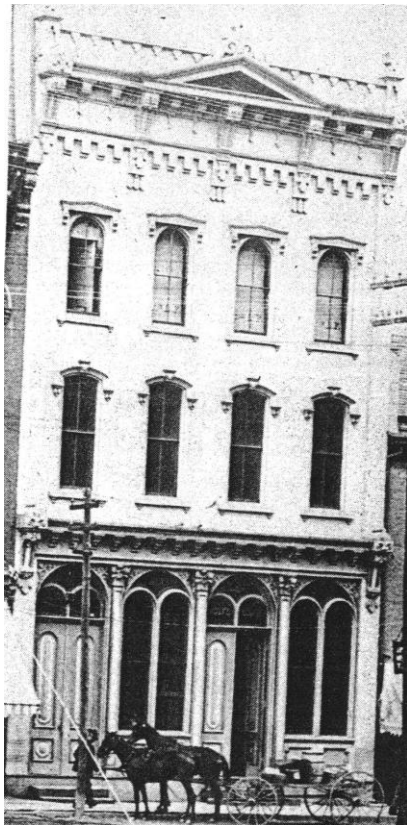
At some time ornamentation was placed on the top of the building. From the center was an eagle with outstretched wings. On either side were two golden balls. This is shown clearly in a picture of 1910 in "Life in Ship Fever Time in Whitehall."

As more research is accomplished, many of the businesses located in the building will come to light. Again in Sanborn maps we find that by 1884 the Whitehall Armory was located on the second floor where the Burleigh Corps had its headquarters. The drill hall extended across the whole building. This was before the present Armory was constructed. The second story also had a millinery shop. In 1891 the Armory and hall were still there. The first floor had listed a drugstore on the south side with a barber shop on the second story. In 1986 the same stores were there with the word stationery added to the drugstore.

Over the years other businesses that Whitehallers of today can remember have been in this building.

The Whitehall Times October 23, 1975

The O'Brien Building Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



O'Brien Building



Photo by K Bartholomew (#25)

The Bank Building at 58 Main Street is owned by Dennis O'Brien from whom this information was obtained.

An 1858 picture shows a one-story building on this site with a large sign "Bank of Whitehall" across the front. This Bank of Whitehall (later there was another one so called) was chartered in 1828 and again in 1831 when it opened for business. It was reorganized as the Old National Bank, 4 May 1865 and liquidated about 1903.

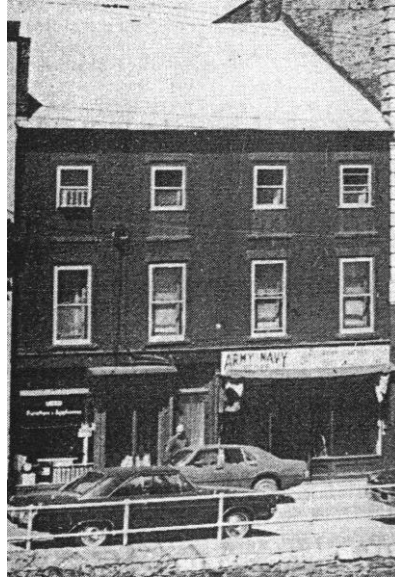
The next building on this site was of the 1860's architecture with three stories above which was a front with a cornice supported by ornamental brackets and containing a simple pediment. Below this was a sill course of ornamental brickwork, reminiscent of A. C. Hopson's style. The map of 1907 shows this building vacant at that time. Later owners were Robert Cook, Melyina Carter and Dennis O'Brien.

In the 1940's Mr. O'Brien removed the large bank vault in the building. In the 1950's he remodeled the building by removing the third story, lowering the first floor to the street level, and changing the floors so that there are still three stories.

The present building has a plain cornice. The third story has slightly rounded windows with masonry ornamental lintels and sills. The present second story retained the decorative panels over the windows which are supported by Corinthian columns, a familiar feature used in the construction of early banks. The first floor front has been modernized. The building now houses apartments, Anthony Ross's furniture store, and Angus's Grill.

The Whitehall Times
October 16, 1975

The Whiting Block
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



The Whiting Block at 34 Main Street, owned by Gloria and Richard Whiting has had a variety of neighbors in height, according to a series of pictures of Canal Street. The present building was evidently constructed in the 1850's as one picture shows it in 1858. By 1878 it had to the south a towering neighbor in a bank building while to the north its near neighbor (now Barber's) and Chase's south building were of the same height with stepped roof ends north and south with the roof slanting to the east.

A decade or two later it was cuddled between the higher bank building on the south and the higher Harding and Bascom building to the north and had lost its stepped ends. Now it is still below Barber's but almost equal to the O'Brien building (the bank) which had its third story removed.

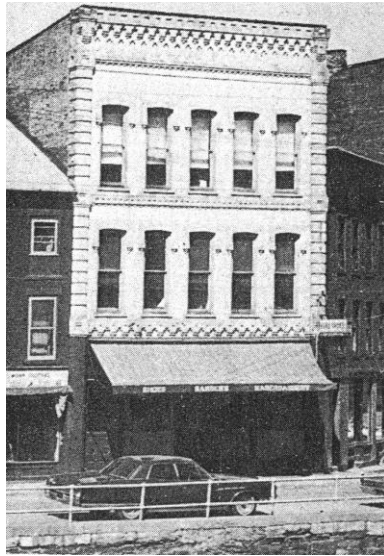
The site of the building is traced back in deeds to 1815. Pre-canal stores on its site would have had an advantage position in being near the harbor for trade with the lake boats. When the present building was constructed it was right on canal side as the canal and locks were farther west than the canal in Wood Creek and Lock 12 is now. In the 1850's it was in the business section owned by Peter J.H. Myers, a prominent businessman. This corner of the street was known then Myers Corner.

Under the slanting roof is a plain cornice with a row of brick dentils. The modified windows still have the stone lintels and sills. Over the first floor is a sill course of straight bricks. Modern apartments now occupy the second and third floors but the first storey has its origin metal ceiling and the double brick walls.

(This building was demolished in 2006 for safety reasons. kb)

The Whitehall Times
May 20, 1976

Barber's Clothing Store
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



Barber's Clothing Store Right photo by K Bartholomew (#26)

This corner of what used to be Canal and Broad streets was one of the oldest building sites in business Skenesborough. Ebenezer Proudfit was one of the purchasers of Skenesborough along with John Williams. His property was contained in this section of the town.

Joseph Jillson, who bought the tri-cornered stone building in 1815 on what is now Chase's south store, sold this stone store lot to Peter J. H. Myers in 1830. For years this section of the street was known as Myers Corner. Peter kept a store here for many years, finally willing it to his nephew Michael who left Skenesborough to live in Poughkeepsie. There had to be an interrelation between neighboring landlords, for water privileges and attention to walls used in common were written into legal documents.

In 1877 Michael J. Myers sold this property to Horace E. Wait. Mr. Wait's family came from Auburn to run a business and later returned to Auburn where the family still runs a carpet business as it did in Whitehall. The building of Wait burned in one of Whitehall's fires. The present store was constructed doubtless in the 1880's and from the brick construction and decorations was probably one of Architect Hopson's buildings.

Mr. Wait sold the store in 1888 to Charles Harding and Benjamin Bascom and there are the store names of Harding, Bascom & Co. In 1925 Mr. Bascom sold the property to people in Rutland who in turn, two years later sold it to George Brett and there are the names of Bascom and Brett and Brett Clothing Co. Harold and Mary Barber acquired the property in 1950 and the Barber Clothing business has been continued since that time.

The building at this corner is an imposing one of brick. At the top are four sill courses of decorative brick patterns such as Mr. Hopson used. The front corners have

brick quoins. Five windows on the second and third floors are curved and capped by a double row of brick extending down the sides and ending in a pendant drape. A sill course of decorative brick extends over the modernized store front.

Inside attractions are the steel ceiling on the first floor and the large Mosler Badman & Co. safe of 1883 which Mrs. Barber still uses along with the unique cash register of six draws.

Triangle Building



Triangle Building

Photo by K Bartholomew (#27)

BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

NEW YORK STATE HISTORIC TRUST
OFFICE OF PARKS AND RECREATION
ALBANY, NEW YORK (518) 457-3753

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

UNIQUE SITE NO. 115-41-0019-001
QUAD _____
SERIES _____
NEG. NO. _____

CAROL B. GREENOUGH, Secretary, Historical 4/1973
YOUR NAME: Doris B. Morton, Town and Village Historian

YOUR ADDRESS: Whitehall, N.Y. TELEPHONE: 518 499 0225
518 499 0754

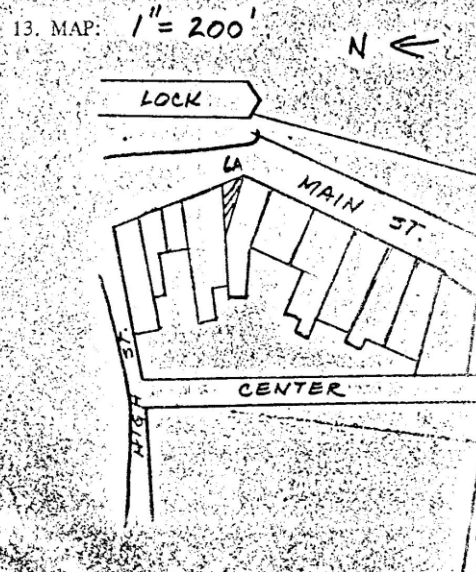
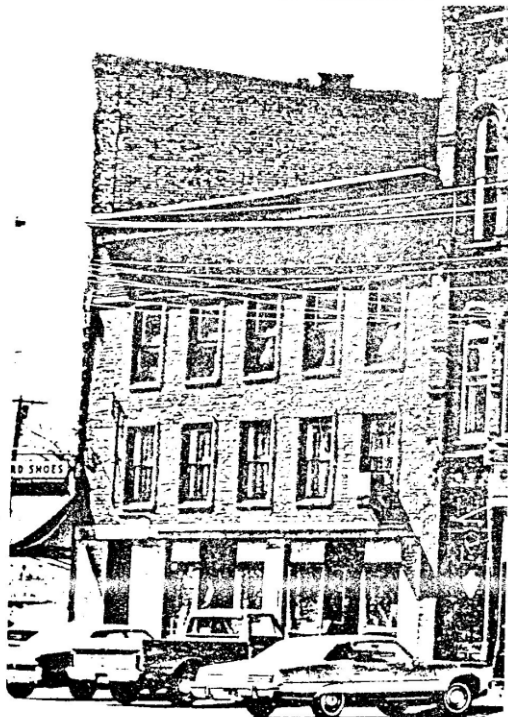
ORGANIZATION (if any): Historical Historical Society

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME(S): Chase's
2. COUNTY: Washington TOWN/CITY: Whitehall VILLAGE: Whitehall
3. STREET LOCATION: 48 Main Street
4. OWNERSHIP: a. public ☐ b. private ☒
5. PRESENT OWNER: Edward Chase ADDRESS: 42 Main Street
6. USE: Original: _____ Present: Clothing store
7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes ☒ No ☐
Interior accessible: Explain Business hours

DESCRIPTION

8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard ☐ b. stone ☐ c. brick ☒ d. board and batten ☐
e. cobblestone ☐ f. shingles ☐ g. stucco ☐ other: _____
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: (if known) a. wood frame with interlocking joints ☐
b. wood frame with light members ☐
c. masonry load bearing walls ☒
d. metal (explain) _____
e. other _____
10. CONDITION: a. excellent ☒ b. good ☐ c. fair ☐ d. deteriorated ☐
11. INTEGRITY: a. original site ☒ b. moved ☐ if so, when? _____
c. list major alterations and dates (if known): _____



14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known ☒ b. zoning ☐ c. roads ☐
d. developers ☐ e. deterioration ☐
f. other: _____

15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:
a. barn ☐ b. carriage house ☐ c. garage ☐
d. privy ☐ e. shed ☐ f. greenhouse ☐
g. shop ☐ h. gardens ☐
i. landscape features: _____
j. other: Between business buildings

16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):
a. open land ☐ b. woodland ☐
c. scattered buildings ☐
d. densely built up ☐ e. commercial ☒
f. industrial ☐ g. residential ☐
h. other: _____

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:
(Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

Faces Main Street, one of the main streets of the early village on the first canal for trade. Faces Champlain Barge Canal

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):

Exterior: Cornice; 5 windows on 2d floor outlined with brick, small modernized front with old style entrances inset; long plate glass shape
Deeds describe its triangular since 1820's

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: circa 1829

ARCHITECT: _____

BUILDER: Joseph Jillson, an early landholder and business man

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

Deeds in county office show it was the site of older store in early history of the village; a corner lot evidently was in the center of the trading area. Faces Champlain Barge Canal, its its three locations in the village. One owner related that an 1810 penny was found in a corner stone when the front was altered
Triangular shaped building and lot traced in deeds back to Joseph Jillson to 1829

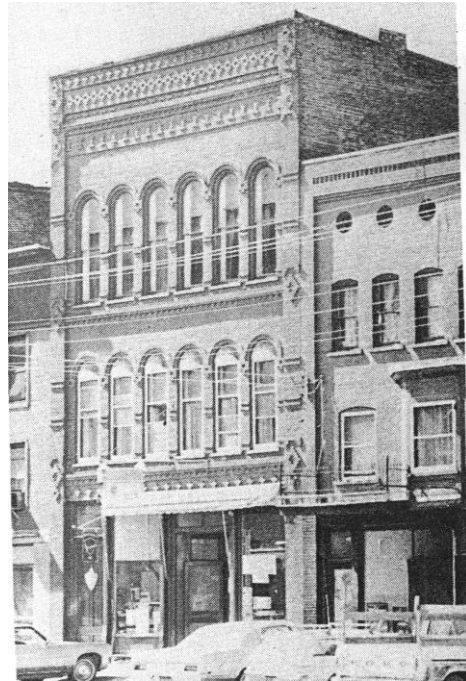
21. SOURCES:

Deeds in county office

Interview with owner, Ed. [unclear] case 3/1973

The Whitehall Times
November 20, 1975

Chase's Store
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



Chase's Store
Bottom photo by K Bartholomew (#28)

Being on the National Register of Historic Places has already benefited Whitehall. Recently when the engineer concerned with the village sewer project was in town to go

over the proposed sewer line he sought out the places on the National Register and went over the route to see that no other historic spot would be touched. One example is the wall on the east of Riverside Park and the parking lot that Melanction Wheeler built for the first canal.

Chase's Store

Edward Chase's store at 42 Main Street stands on land that has been important in trade pre-1815. A merchant, Archibald Smith, erected the first brick front building in the town on this side in 1816. Thirteen years later he sold to Joseph Jillson, a tanner and land owner in the village.

Other owners held the property but in 1864 H. and B. Griswold sold it to Thomas T. Vaughan. The Vaughan House was a popular hotel and catered to many social affairs of the village. It was still operating in 1872 as such even though Mr. Vaughan died in 1870, with D. B. Bartlett as proprietor. Like many hotels in Whitehall the place changed its name. By 1878 it had become known as the Grand Union Hotel, which closed down in 1884. Further research is necessary to disclose the difference in structure of the two buildings pictured here.

The present building in recent times has been known as Henry Neddo's Store and Chase's Store. Across the top of the building are five string courses of different brick decorations. On the second and third floors are six windows each, arched and capped by two rows of brick, the second indented ending in an extension on the side. The two floors are separated by a row of dentils. Pilasters at each side of the building are full length with brick pattern decorations. A sill course is above the modernized first floor front.

The Whitehall Times

June 10, 1976

Eva Gordon Building

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



Eva Gordon Building



Right photo by K Bartholomew (#29)

THE BUILDING OF EVA GORDON ON MAIN STREET

Ebenezer Proudfit purchased some of Philip Skene's property on the west side of Wood Creek after the Revolution. After Ebenezer's death Alexander Proudfit of Salem, as executor, leased part of a lot to Eliot Depew in 1812 and later to David Caldwell. Through the execution of the Depew estate this land came into the possession of H. A. Griswold, a noted jeweler of Whitehall for over. 40 years. This land extended to Center Street.

Since 1898, when the land was sold, ownership of it has changed hands several times, notably to the families of Carter and Gordon.

The whole lot now holds two buildings, Mrs. Gordon's and Joseph Bottoni's. According to a newspaper account in 1912 the original taller buildings on this lot were somewhat destroyed by fire but were rebuilt in the form they are now. Since this was after the death of the architect, A. B. Hopson, the decorative brick is not in his style but it fits with the surrounding buildings.

Across the top of Mrs. Gordon's building is a brick inset among the course of straight bricks. Below this are inset four circular windows encircled with bricks. Four windows on the third floor are capped with two curved rows of brick. The window on the second floor is capped with brick. To the north of this is a three windowed bay window or oriele as it was called when not on the first floor. There are panels below each of these windows. The first floor has a door to the south leading to apartments above. Another door is between the two show windows on the modernized front.

The Whitehall Times
June 17, 1976

Victory Grill Building
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



Victory Grill Building



Right photo by K Bartholomew (#30)

The Victory Grill Building

The lot now belonging to Joseph Bottoni is the north part of the lot once comprising this and Mrs. Eva Gordon's to the south. In 1820 the lot was between parcels of land owned by early citizen Asa Goodrich, Jr., and Alexander Smith. Center Street at that time was called an alley in deeds leading to the school house, meaning the first academy on the corner of Division and Center streets.

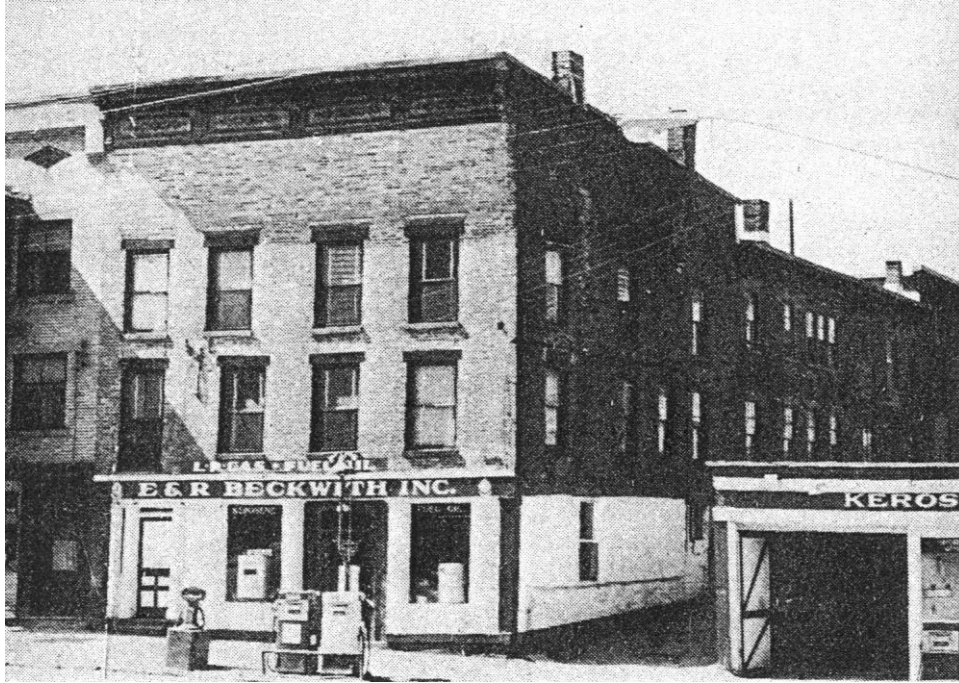
In the following years other well known Whitehall names are associated with this section — Boyd, Bunce, Hardy, Bartley, ending with Arquette and Bottoni. The building was changed after a fire in 1912 and is different in form from the building to the South.

A bit lower than the Gordon Block, the sides of the top bricked section end in a dropped pattern. Across the bottom of the panel is a string course of dentils. Two decorative windows are diamond shaped, the tops outlined with bricks.

Two windows on the second and third floors have plain stone lintels and sills. Between the windows on each floor is a door enclosed with a wooden balcony. The first floor front has been modernized but has the old feature of the door between two windows.

The Whitehall Times
April 8, 1976

Beckwith Building
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



Beckwith Building

At 28 Main Street at the south corner of High Street is a business block containing the fuel business of Robert Beckwith. The brick building dates back at least to the 1860's as it is shown on the 1866 map as belonging to John H. McGhee. A deed shows it was transferred to him by Robert G. and Susan Dayton of Granville.

The property passed through several hands until it became the property of John Davey. In the 1892 Whitehall Directory he is listed as having a saloon which might have indicated it was the Central House at that time. In 1898 the Whitehall Times advertisement describes his Central House: "It's new throughout and centrally located."

Another deed describes the sale of the property to Charles and Edith Carswell by Walter and Anna Bartley, 11 February 1923. To Mrs. Carswell we owe a description of the upper stories of the Central House layout. "The two floors above the shop had long halls down the middle with rooms on each side. In the attic the beams were scorched from an old fire. It was not paneled but had just old paint and paper and bad floors. We made two separate apartments on each floor putting in new kitchens, baths and new floors and painted and papered.

"A separate two-story back apartment opened on High Street which was also renovated. The very back of the building had four garages that opened on Center Street."

The shop was described in the 1927 directory as "Carswell Battery Shop — Washing and greasing, 9-10-11-12 N. Main Street" with a telephone number 72. Mr. Carswell's advertising motto was "Busy Since 1922."

Emerson Beckwith purchased the building from the Carswells, 1 January 1951 and conducted a fuel oil business. His son, Robert Beckwith, was vice president of the corporation and is now conducting the business.

The brick structure has interesting decorative features on the face. The cornice at the top is supported with brackets. Underneath are four inset decorated panels. The four windows on the second and third floors have vertical bricks over the lintel. The windows on the north side have the same type lintels and sills.

The first floor has been modernized by painting but a closer look shows an interesting treatment. The front side door has two Ionic columns. The two large front windows and the front door between them are separated with Doric columns, an unusual combination of two kinds of Greek columns in a small space.

(This building no longer exists in 2007, kb)

The Whitehall Times May 6, 1976

The Meeting Place Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



The Meeting Place building on Main Street, owned by Charles Stiles of Fair Haven, Vt., was constructed, according to deeds, circa 1832. It was probably built by Gustavus Buel with brick from the local brickyard.

Gustavus was succeeded by his son Julio Buel in the hat business. Julio added to the hat factory his own Buel fishing tackle industry which included manufacturing and selling of the famous Buel spoons. Doubtless some of the 12 inventions for which he held patents were made at this location. Julio also held his Judgment court in this building.

When Julio retired from business, it was purchased by Charles Pike in 1886. Mr. Pike remodeled the building and later transferred his jewelry business and fishing supplies to two other locations in the village before he sold it to a concern in Saratoga.

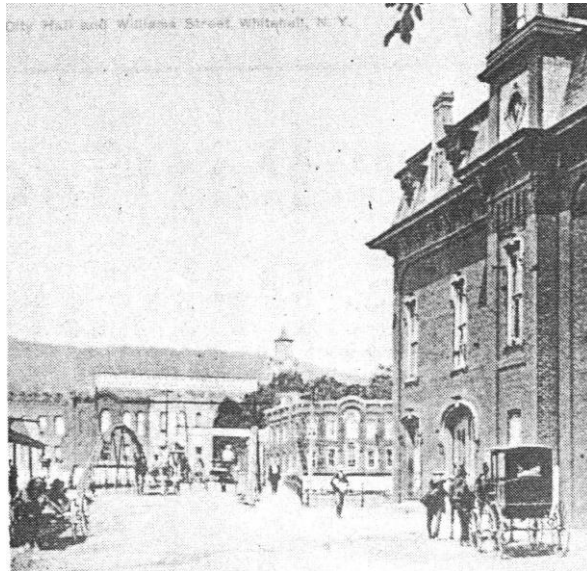
The building exterior has a slant roof. The front cornice is supported by full and half brackets. The two rows of four windows on the third and second stories are capped with an arched double row of bricks ending on each side with a pendant type brick work. Over the middle of each arch does a decoration resemble a T. The side wall is stepped. There are four windows on the sides with stone lintels. The porches were an addition. The apartments were made in the 1920's and modernized in 1971.

Fortunately the recent fire has not destroyed the outside architecture that is a part of our architectural treasure.

(This building no longer exists in 2007. kb)

The Whitehall Times November 9, 1976

The Village Building Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



Village Building Right photo by K Bartholomew (#31)

The data for the village building in Whitehall's Historic District on the National Register has been elusive. The search for the deeds, usually productive of location and former owners, has been baffling.

Comparison of two maps show that the village building on its present location did not exist in 1866 but did in 1875. The village record books give some account in February, 1869, the village board decided to sell the village hall then in use, the engine houses and erect a town hall that would house the village room, the engine house and the

lock-up. In August of that year the village hall and lot, the Engine Hook and Ladder cart, and the Niagara Engine No. 2 were sold at auction. The following week the board voted to erect a new building on a lot selected for that purpose on the east side of the creek at the end of the central bridge.

The lot had evidently already, been selected for in 1867 the village had purchased the M. J. Myers a strip of land extending east of the bridge and in 1868 Washington J. Smith and others had purchased from Isaac C. Griswold the blacksmith lot which was the site decided upon. This lot was between Isaac C. Griswold's brick building on the north (later to become the Whitehall Times building) on the north and the Sherman lot on the south (formerly Jillson's land and then Griswold's) extending from Williams Street to Wood Creek. Permission was given in the deed to extend an ell on the new building beyond the brick building to the north and to allow access to Saunders street to the latter building for teams.

Ownership of these properties has yet to be found before Isaac C. Griswold owned it. How was it obtained from John Williams, whose was the blacksmith shop, and what was the Sherman lot owned by Jillson and later by Griswold?

Work on the new village hall was begun in March, 1870, with the letting of the contract to Marcellus Smith with Joseph Jillson, George Goodale, Joseph Jalet. and A. C. Hopson sub-contractors. The work was done by the fall of 1870 for the annual village report of 1871 described it as having cost \$10,902.33 and consisting of three rooms on the first floor for the use of the fire department, one room on the second floor for the village hall (which was often rented for an evening social) and four rooms on the third floor for use of the firemen. In the cellar was the lock-up containing four cells and reception room.

This picture of the building (*Left photo*) was taken before 190?. The carriage hides a door which was later blocked and the easterly window becoming the present door. The mansard roof, the heavy sill and lintels with keystone effect, the double brackets under the cornice speaks eloquently of A. C. Hopson style of architecture. The bell tower is a feature long gone. Note the team on the left that stands on the site the present Marion's Dress Shop.

The Whitehall Times
July 28, 1977

Whitehall Times Building
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



Whitehall Times Building



Photo by K Bartholomew (#34)

One of the oldest buildings in Whitehall's National Historic site is The Whitehall Times block.

The land on which it stands was acquired by Isaac Chester Griswold some time after he came to Whitehall from Benson, Vt. in 1827. The date of purchase and erection of the building is yet unknown but in early deeds of the area it is used to locate lines of other sites.

Since the late 1830's the building has "lain" in the Village of Whitehall opposite the second Phoenix Hotel (first the American and later the Ridgeway Hotel). It is described in its deed by means of itself: "Beginning at a point in the highway called Williams Street opposite the southeast corner of the brick building on the lot hereby conveyed; running from thence northerly on the west side of the street to the south line of the watering place; from thence northwest to Wood Creek; up Wood Creek to a point opposite the southwest corner of said brick building and from thence east to the southeast corner of said brick building; thence along the face of the south wall of the brick building to the place of beginning." Of course in its early years it had more land around it.

One wonders why buildings were constructed so close together in the early days of the village. In 1868 the village purchased land from Isaac Griswold for the Village Hall and fire house just south of this brick building. Restrictions were entered in the deed: the right of way over the rear of the village lot to persons and teams to the brick building; the right of the village to build upon the south wall of the brick building and to support this building but not to exceed a depth of four inches; the flues of the brick building to be

used in common; the brick building to be extended as far west as the village building if desired; in case of fire or otherwise either party could rebuild.

In 1887 W. A. Wilkins moved The Whitehall Times into the brick building. The area became known as Printing House Square with The Whitehall Times at Nos. 5 and 7 and the Whitehall Chronicle at No. 16. Mr. Wilkins had married into the Griswold family which owned the property until 1912 when it was sold to Edward Roche and Theodore Godbout. In 1931 Edward Roche deeded it to his wife. It is interesting to note that since the original purchase from the Williams estate only two family names are associated with ownership of the building, Griswold and Roche.

The front of the building shows three stories above the sidewalk. The wall is three bricks thick and they show the irregularity of early manufactured bricks. The first floor has seven half columns that act as support for the beams over the doors. At their bottoms are iron panels about 2 1/2 by 1/2 feet. The windows on the second and third floors have 12 panes with rectangular wooden lintels over them, another sign of age in the building. The windows on the first floor have been modernized but are set in their original framework.

The back of the building shows the attic and basement floors. The attic floor has six eyebrow windows to light the interior which is low and has exposed hand hewn and fitted beams. The second story has a dividing wall.

The Whitehall Times **August 4, 1977**

The Whitehall Times Building **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

The Whitehall Times Building has had a number of industries in it since Isaac Griswold erected it some time in the 1830's. The earliest one might possibly have been associated with the feed business. An early picture shows a wagon scale in the street in front of the building. At one time James Doren stored his coffins in one of the rooms.

From people associated with the building during the first part of the 20th century, some of the activities there are set down. Burdett Godbout was an activator of many of them.

Socony gasoline pumps once stood at the front and in back of the building. The big Socony advertising sign was pictured on top of the building facing the canal. John Stockton was the manager for the oil company.

Godbout's sporting goods store was located in the south section of the building, upstairs and down. Before the advent of the sporting goods store a shoe shop was in the present office. In back of the sporting goods section was a bicycle shop and upstairs was a pool hall. In the northern part was a toy shop.

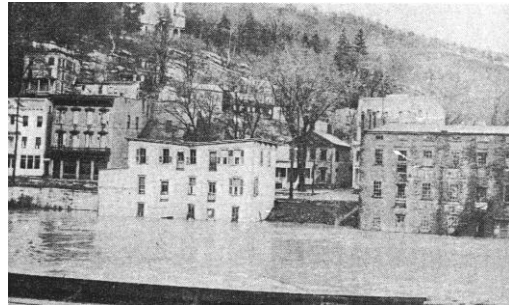
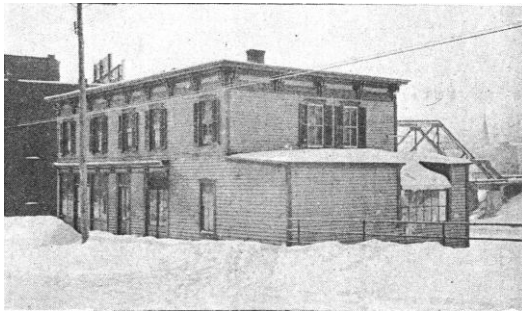
Charley's Chinese laundry at one time occupied the basement. The entrance to this was the present one to the editorial room. One turned right and went down the stairs to the basement.

In 1887 W.A. Wilkins moved The Whitehall Times into the building on the second floor. When Mr. Roche started The Whitehall Evening Times, the presses were moved downstairs where the paper was printed in 1927 and 1928. After the close of the daily, the presses came back to the second floor.

The sign with the Socony board advertised a cleaning and dyeing industry. There must have been other occupations in the building over the years. Another item that would be interesting to research is the topic of watering troughs around the town. Two stood very near The Whitehall Times Building. One to the north mentioned in its deed and one to the southeast of the village building. In this connection there are the sites of the watering trough that is now in Riverside Park, a more elegant feature than a concrete one would be.

The Whitehall Times October 10, 1976

Liberty Eatery Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



This photo is from the Liberty Eatery Diary and depicts the boat named "Show Boat" tied up.



Photo by K Bartholomew (#32)

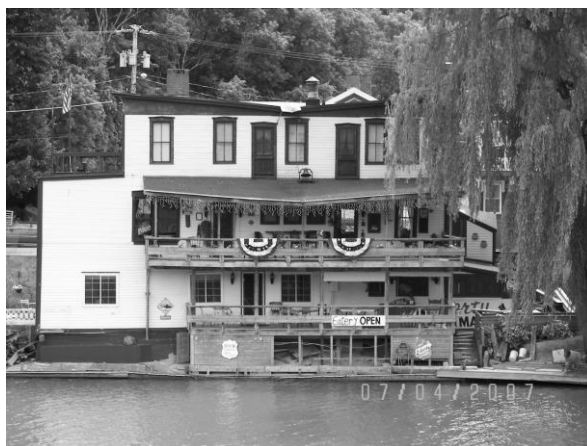


Photo by K Bartholomew (#33)

Another building in Skenesborough on the National Register is known as the Liberty Eatery, or simply the Eatery.

The land on which this building stands was part of a parcel that General John Williams purchased, illegally, from the Skene lands on the east side of Wood Creek. In 1832 a descendant of the General (there were four Johns in direct line from 1752) sold the land to Melancton Wheeler. A map of 1830 does not show a building between the two bridges but the map of 1866 shows several buildings in the area, unlabeled.

In 1850 the Wheeler family sold the land to Albert G. Bristol, whose name is still on the deeds in that area. Soon after this, the land came into the possession of the Adams family, notably C. C. Adams, the photographer. The Whitehall Times of 23 May 1877 reported: "C. C. Adams has commenced the construction of a new frame building on the lot opposite the Opera House, lately belonging to Mrs. Bristol. The building will be two stories, with photographic galley and offices above and stores below. Joseph Wilson is the architect and builder. Plans must have been changed, for the 6 June paper said: "C. C. Adams' new building opposite the Opera House is rapidly approaching completion. The north end first floor will be occupied by Adams and Fillmore as a photographic gallery. The south end is already rented as a store while the upper story will be fitted up as a residence."

On 4 July a restaurant was opened in the new building by L. K. Pierce. It was called The Delmonico.

Later the building was used by James E. West as a photographic gallery. In a recent collection of pictures of this photographer obtained by the Town Historian, one shows on the canal side of the building the words, "Photographer J. West.", on another he wrote facetiously "Castle on the Rhine, J. E. West residence."

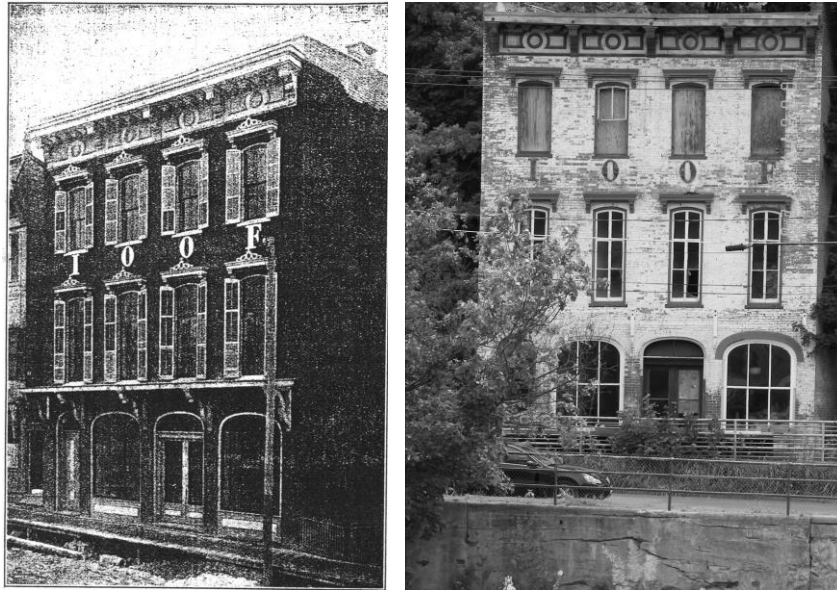
The building came onto hard times for a while until it was purchased by Mrs. Katherine Leddick in 1952, who has made it into a nationally known restaurant, catering especially to the boating public. The atmosphere is delightfully "old time" with the Eatery on the canal level, an antique emporium on the next floor, and residence on the top floor.

The outstanding architectural feature is the rare butterfly roof seen from the canal, a built-in feature that aided drainage on a flat roof. The building has an overhang with double brackets supporting it. The facade has been kept to the general form as when first built as can be seen in the picture before alteration.

Winter scene shows glass photographic gallery on north side of building.

The Whitehall Times
November 4, 1975

Odd Fellows Hall
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



Odd Fellow Hall Right photo by K Bartholomew (#35)

Another building in the downtown business district on the National Register is being put to use again. What has long been called the Odd Fellows hall has become Frere and Company, a ship chandlery.

The Whitehall newspapers gave a complete description of its inside appearance in January, 1901. Many of these features are still present.

The room on the first floor was 24 by 20 feet. This was used as a club room. It was wainscoted with Alabama pine, floored with Georgia pine and the casings were Carolina pine. The stairway between the first and second floors had a gradual rise and was four feet in width.

The second floor contained the reception room or parlor and entrance rooms. It was 22 by 19 feet with a ceiling 12 feet high. The ceilings were of that beautiful ornamental metal. It contained a handsome mantelpiece and cabinet rooms for paraphernalia.

The third floor contained a large assembly hall and paraphernalia room. The main hall was 62 by 28 feet with a 14 foot ceiling. Four steel girders 31 feet long and 15 inches wide across the ceiling divided it into five panels. These were decorated and contained ventilators. Three chandeliers with I.O.O.F. ornamentations gave light. The noble grand occupied a platform at the west end. At the south side of the building, at the

east end was a brick annex forming a 24 by 20 foot room for paraphernalia. Double doors connecting this with the main room were made of cypress wood. A large door opened from the annex to the hall in the rear.

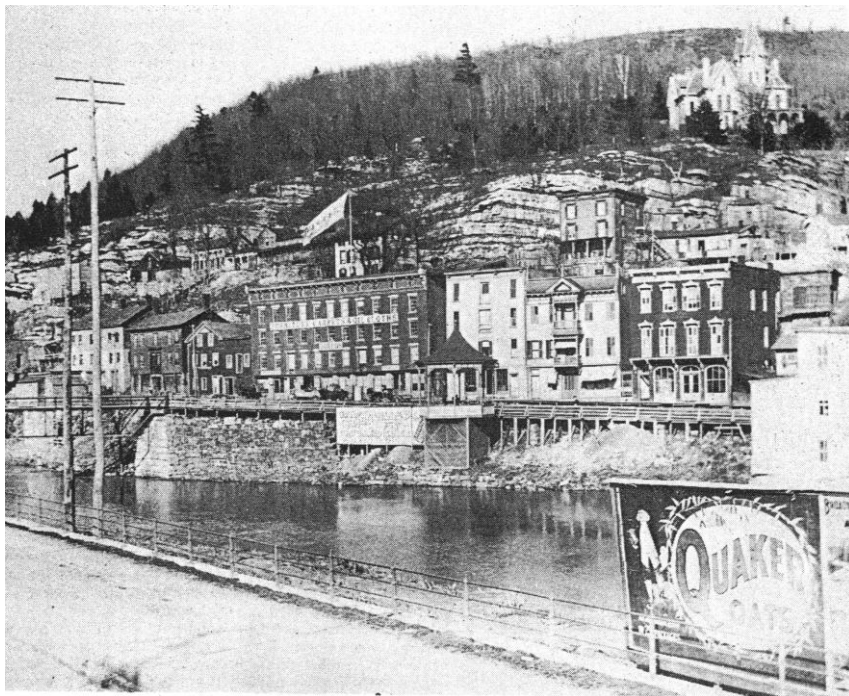
To provide room for extending the upper floor, solid rock was blasted in the rear of the building. This rock was used in making a wall at the rear of the upper room and on the village street. The rear part of the building was cemented tight to the rock so that the rock and cellar beneath were dry. The cellar was large enough to contain ten tons of coal and five cords of wood.

The east end of the hall was extended through an enclosed stairway on the south end of the building.

Further history of the building and persons connected with it can be researched. Being on the National Register gives prestige to the village and owners of the buildings and can save property that is a part of our history; but it takes pride of individuals and organizations to preserve what we have from being altered or completely destroyed. Whitehalls have that pride.

The Whitehall Times November 18, 1976

Scotts Building Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



Another building on the National Register is still called by many "Scott's building." although; it now belongs to Vito Carnivale.

Originally a part of John Williams' purchase of Skene's land, the lot came into possession of O. E. and M. S. Smith who built on it in 1843 a four-story building with a hip roof. They rented it as stores, markets and tenements and opened for business in 1844.

At this time it was a main business place in Whitehall, favorably situated at the east end of the principal bridge over Wood creek. A later bridge in this position became a foot bridge.

In 1860 James Doren purchased the building. Mr. Doren was an enterprising merchant and funeral director as well as an insurance agent. Before 1852 he had been a carpenter and joiner. To his building he added a fifth story and a flat roof.

The picture, after 1892, shows a cornice with double brackets over each of the windows that were in the fifth floor. The windows, eleven to each of the upper floors, with wide lintels and sills, had 12 panes each. The banner advertises carpets, while the sign on the building lists stores and furniture on the ground floor.

During Mr. Doren's business years, he took into partnership his four sons, John, Fred, Charles and James, the title becoming "Doren and Sons." It is interesting to note his two wives were sisters in the noted Francisco family.

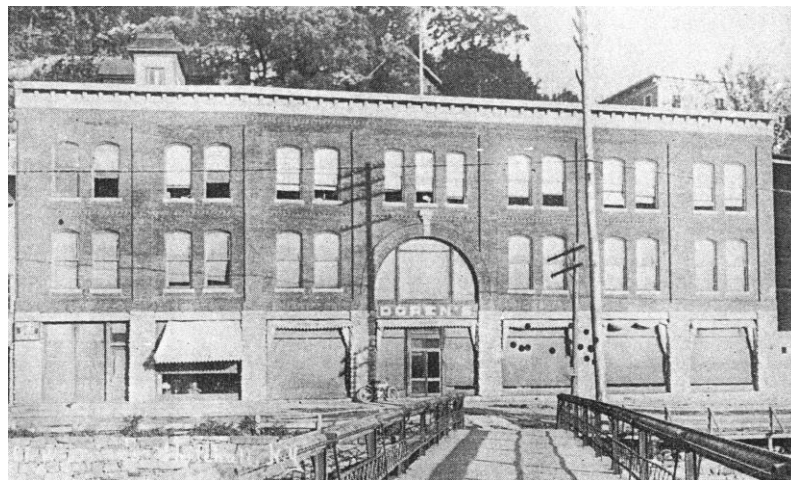
On 16 November 1900 fire destroyed the "old, ware- house" now owned by the sons. They held sales of the merchandise which friends had helped save and moved immediately into the old armory building, Anderson hall, from which the Ninth Separate Company had moved to the new armory. They called it "Doren's Emporium."

Reconstruction on the site of the old store started immediately and three days before the anniversary of the fire, the new store opened for business.

(This building no longer exists in 2007. kb)

The Whitehall Times November 26, 1976

Doren's New Building Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



Doren's new building was opened 13 November 1901. Its brick front measures 122 feet and is 50 feet high. The picture follows the newspaper description.

The first story, massive but rich and ornamental, was built in columns of blue marble with six immense plate glass windows, each having an undivided pane, 12 by 8 feet. Above each pane was a transom with two panes each 7 ½ by 28 inches.

The main entrance was in the center of the front of an arch 12 feet high and 16 ½ feet wide at the base. The entrance had double doors each containing a plate glass pane 69 by 55 inches. Above the door, on the second story and within the main arch, was a large window pane 96 by 84 inches, surrounded by smaller panes. At the center of the arch was an ornamental keystone. Above the second and third stories ran a row of brick dentils.

The building was divided into north and south sections by a brick firewall, the north end 45 feet 7 inches and the south 87 feet 5 inches. A team with wagon could be drawn into the double front door at the north end entrance. Near this was an elevator that carried freight from the wagons and passengers to the upper floors and roof. Customers could use a "pretty" staircase beside the elevator to reach the upper floors.

The lower floor displayed carpets, sewing machines, brass and iron bedsteads, living room furniture and plumbing goods.

The second floor with North Carolina pine ceiling and Georgia pine floors contained furniture for dining rooms, halls and suites, with many chairs.

The third floor had miscellaneous furnishings and contained the "overcoat" department, as the undertaking rooms were facetiously called.

Harold Scott was employed by Fred Doren, beginning about 1919. He served apprenticeship in undertaking, went to Boston for study and became a funeral director in 1921. In 1923 the store was purchased by Mr. Scott and Wheaton Bosworth and the furniture business was continued. Since then it has passed through several owners' hands and has had various occupants, including a shirt factory.

(This building no longer exists in 2007. kb)

The Whitehall Times December 14, 1972

17 North Williams Street Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

At 17 North Williams Street is a red building with white trim that has an interesting exterior. Its ownership through the years is part of Whitehall's history.

Whitehall lay in the first tract of 25,000 acres that Philip Skene obtained from the King of England. This land was taken by the Americans by Act of Attainder Oct. 22, 1779. Several men bought huge areas of the land, including General John Williams, John Boyd, and Ebenezer Proudfit from Salem.

One lot of General Williams was the 500 acre Mill Lot known as Lot 23. This lot for purposes of resale was divided into lots and the Rovelli property was in Lot 19 of Mill

Lot 23. Early transfer of land was by quit claim and lease, final ownership depended on interest payments and long term payments, some of which were not met and the land reverted.

By Nov. 30, 1838, John H. Boyd had gained possession of this lot by a quit claim deed. By May 1, 1848, he assigned it to John Moriarty. On Oct. 21, 1852, John Moriarity gave an indenture of lease for a house and lot to William Paterson. A year later, Sept. 21, 1853, William Paterson leased it to Josiah Hart. Evidently the terms of all these leases were not met for the property had reverted to John H. Boyd Aug. 12, 1862.

John H. Boyd conveyed the lot by warranty deed to Rosmond Chapman Aug. 12, 1862. It was a triangular piece of land and the deed describes only three sides: Beginning at a point on Mountain Street opposite the house where John C. Chapman now resides and runs from thence eastwardly of said Chapman to northwest line of the Wheeler lot (now William Allen) then southwest on said Wheeler to Mountain Street thence west on west line to Mountain Street thence west on west line of Mountain Street to place of beginning.

John C. Chapman was a cabinet maker. He had had a shop on the edge of the creek which had tumbled into the creek Aug. 18, 1856. In the meantime he had moved back. On the 1866 map of Whitehall he is shown as living in this house. Rosmond Chapman must have been his daughter-in-law. She was the wife of John D. Chapman and during World War I is described as the oldest Red Cross worker. .

Fanny H. Williams was legatee of her father Colonel John Williams, son of General John Williams. She inherited her father's property and held lawsuits against people in Whitehall who did not have a clear deed to their property. On April 25, 1876, Rosmond was able to claim her property legally.

By will dated March 6, 1919, Jennie Newcomb received the place from Rosmond. Several owners have held the property since then, and its use has been as an apartment building, using its three floors. Frank Russo bought it Sept. 1, 1934; Frank Durand, 1944; Eva and Max Gordon, 1948, and Angelo Rovelli, 1971,

17 North Williams Street is located north of I.O.O.F. hall with a vacant lot on its north side. A three -floored structure, it is built against a rock ledge of lower Skene Mountain. Its lean-to roof has a mansard front overhang supported by ornamental dentils.

Pedimented gabled balconies are supported on its two floors in the center of the building by lath-turned braces. Directly under the balconies is the main door of the federal type — oblong rectangular with glass panes. A left side door has rounded Victorian panels at the top and an octagonal panel at the bottom. The keyhole plate and knob have been replaced. It opens directly on the street.

Inside all floors have retained the brass chandeliers of early electrical features and the walls of the third story are wainscoted.

This is one of the older buildings of Whitehall and these features will be listed on the forms that will be presented for our place on the National Register of Historic sites. The downtown area has been decried to us by architectural authorities as an "architectural heritage" that should be preserved.

(This building no longer exists in 2007. kb)

Newspapers

The Whitehall Independent November 23, 1983

The Whitehall Emporium (1823) Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Recently I received a request concerning the Newspaper Emporium. Regretfully I had to answer that I know of only two issues in existence: one in our research library and one in the files of the New York State Historical Association in New York City.

The Whitehall Emporium was Whitehall's first newspaper established in 1823. Some historical accounts make the date 1822 but issue 18 was dated 16 December 1823 and Erastus Adams came to Whitehall from Burlington, Vermont in 1823.

This 18th issue was a four-page five column paper. Its first page contained a bank note table showing the earliest bank of Warren-Washington of Sandy Hill. It had the annual message of President Monroe which became the Monroe Doctrine. There were about two columns of foreign news, two of domestic character and Vermont news. It probably lasted until 1828.

In the summer of 1883, Hugh McCotter, who served many years as a road commissioner of the village spent his leisure, time in the Williams Street Cemetery putting it in order. It was grown over with bushes and brambles and its headstones broken and overturned. Hugh scoured the mold and rust from these and put them in order. One stone he found was face down. When he righted it and cleaned its surface, he found this inscription: "Erastus Adams, editor of first newspaper in Whitehall, called the Emporium.. - Died April 15th, 1825, aged : 25 years. Blessed are those who die in the Lord." The stone is still in the cemetery.

Mr. McCotter was 85 years old when he made this labor of love. The editor of the Whitehall Times suggested that he be remunerated for this unselfish and unsought work without expectation of pay. The editor admonished, "Be just if not generous."

The Whitehall Times December 17, 1987

Whitehall's First Editor and the "Emporium" Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In the Williams Street cemetery was a stone that read "In Memory of Erastus, Adams, first editor and proprietor of the Whitehall Emporium; died April 15, 1825, aged 25 years." Mr. Adams may have been a native of Bennington, Vt., coming to live in Whitehall before he began the paper.

Early Whitehall population was made up of many immigrants from surrounding states and communities. He was a substantial citizen as his personal property of \$3,000, a good sum for that year, indicated.

Village fathers in the early days of the 19th century worried about the poor of these immigrants being put on its resources - so much so that a law required that if anyone had a stranger in his home, he had to notify the authorities and become responsible for his keep in case the stranger became a town charge. So, in 1824 Mr. Adams sent notice of Daniel Curtis presence in his home.

Dating back from Volume 1 Number 18 of the Emporium, the paper started publication in August 1823. If Erastus Adams continued the paper to just before his death the paper had a life of twenty months. It was a four page, five columns, called a royal size, and was sold for two dollars a year.

Interesting items of Whitehall were included. The main street, stretched from Asa Eddy's Brick Stone on the Bar, south to the old log cabin about the southern end of Riverside Park. A new law forbade the firing of guns within a hundred yards of any house; rubbish could not be piled on this road unless it was four feet of the frame of ones own dwelling; cattle, horses and hogs were excluded from the streets between April 1 and December; horse racing and immoderate driving were prohibited on the streets and bridge.

Mail was sent to Sandy Hill, Fair Haven, and Vergennes three days a week and south by way of Hartford and Greenwich once a week, and to Granville and Pawlet once a week.

At this time there was no canal between Fort Edward and Fort Miller. The boats had to use the Hudson River by means, of poles and sails. There had to be exact pilotage of these waters, and the boatmen had to pay tollage. Whitehall memorialized the legislation to construct a canal between these two points.

The Greek people were undergoing a difficult time in civil and religious matters. Resolutions were passed in Whitehall to raise money by soliciting "subscriptions for their aid. This was done in other communities also.

Troy was an important market. Some prices were quoted: butter 8 cents a pound; lard, 7 cents; cheese, 5 cents; fresh pork, 3 1/2 cents; beef 3 cents.

There was one bank in the area, Warren and Washington County Bank of Sandy Hill.

Would we want to live in the "good old days?"

The Whitehall Times July 24, 1980

A Whitehall Republican 1828 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Another treasure from a scrapbook! In a small black book someone pasted every thing from short stories to obituaries to politics and so on. Among the pastings was a long summary of an issue of the Whitehall Republican dated 17 May 1828 by the editor of the Whitehall Chronicle of 6 July 1878.

Whitehall's first newspaper was the Emporium in 1822. The Whitehall Republican's first issue was 29 September 1827 with four columns to a page, four inches longer than the present Whitehall Times. C.P. Broadwell, the editor, asked \$2 a year payable in advance.

The Whitehall Times December 3, 1970

1849 & 1813 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Miss Edna Brown, a retired New York State teacher, has the spirit of a true researcher. At home now in Castleton, Vt., she is sorting the collections of her parents and grandparents and sending materials she finds on surrounding villages to their historians.

Whitehall is richer through her efforts with a rare copy of the American Sentinel and two copies of 1849 Whitehallers. She has also sent an advertising booklet of the druggist J. R. Broughton for the year 1887.

Although early newspapers were not full of local news items, there is much of interest about Whitehall in these issues that this column will mention.

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Spafford's Gazeeteer of 1813 tells us that John Williams' gift of a church and parsonage to Whitehall included 60 acres of land. This gift was mentioned, before in street naming.

The same source says that it took ten days to make a round trip to St. John's. Whitehall at that time had 56 houses and five storehouses.

The Whitehall Independent August 31, 1983

A Whitehall Chronicle Almanac 1882 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In the year 1882 Editor William Tefft printed a Whitehall Chronicle Illustrated Almanac. There was a monthly chart for game birds and their haunts, a different bird for each month with pictures. In addition, there was miscellaneous information on the heights of towers, movable feasts, and internal revenue of each state, and other items common to almanacs.

But the unusual feature of this almanac was the monthly resume of events that occurred each month in 1881 in two categories, local and general, in the county and in Whitehall,

Whitehall's had the many deaths without dates of the month and other happenings that Mr. Tefft thought important. In January the Grand Fireman's Ball of Steamer No. 3 held forth with Music by the complete band of Doring from Troy. The kitchen range blew up in the home of Supervisor Bascom.

In February there were two grand balls, that of the Grand Ball of the Vets and that of the Burleigh Corps, the latter with Austin's band. During the month a snow storm prevailed over the whole of North America. Whitehall's temperature reached 40° below zero.

Two freight trains telescoped on the N.Y. 5 C.R.R. in the village in March. The rear one ran into the forward one. No one was hurt. The Citizens of the village met at the Village Hall to organize a branch of the Land League. (?)

In April the East Whitehall Congregational Church body voted to disband. It sold its property in September. The Whitehall Veterans received their arms and equipment.

The Champlain Canal opened 12 March. The D. & H. C. Co. established a coal distributing station at this point J. L. Eddy, manager.

In June William H. Tefft printed his address given at the Decoration Day exercises. Great interest in canoeing struck Whitehall. Captain Bascom and E. P. Newcomb invested in two beauties from the west.

The Whitehall Times March 26, 1987

The New Home of the Whitehall Times 1887 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

One hundred years ago in May 1887 Editor Wilkins of the Whitehall Times moved his publishing business into its present building. Fourteen years since he became editor in 1873 his business had been carried on in a large room in the third story of the village building. This room was in the Flatiron building at the junction of Canal and Broad Streets - now known as Main and North Main with the flatiron building gone.

The new address was 5-7 Printing House Square, for the Whitehall Chronicle was also located across the way on Williams Street. Immediately opposite the street was Hall's Hotel on the site of the present Elks Club. The large sanctum, counting room and composing room as Mr. Wilkins called it was on the first floor. The large job room was in the basement with its floors and doors on a level with the ground on the Wood Creek side of the building. All the departments were on first floors as the building was on sloping ground. Mr. Wilkins was highly pleased that the rooms were ideally situated and he boasted that his printing conveniences were unsurpassed in the vicinity.

These new conveniences were newest half medium Gordon Job Presses, a trienk hydraulic water motor with governor, giving 3 ½ horse power to run the presses. The large assortment of new and elegant job type made the job department the best and most complete in this section. The press facilities were a Cottrell Babcock large cylinder press, a half medium job press, and a Gordon Quanto Job Press, all machinery for doing all kinds of job printing at cheap prices.

The work of installation was done by local men: the mason and carpenter work by Whitehall's A.C. Hopson, a master of his trade; the painting by Linsley and Wood; the Shafting in the press room by William Greene and Matthew Corbeth whom Frederick Dale, the new silk mill manager, loaned them.

Mr. Wilkins pledged his pen to work for all measures to increase the welfare of the local people. It seemed an era of prosperity for the town and village population was increasing. The silk mill was hiring 300 persons and there was a possibility of the development of a large marble industry in the suburbs.

The Whitehall Times April 30, 1987

Mr. Wilkins' Last Issue 1887 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The last column of 100 year history in the Whitehall Times of 1887 has come to an end. The run dated from March 1873 to June 1887, the years during which W.A. Wilkins was editor. Mrs. Annie Manville, the daughter of M. Wilkins, gave the volumes to the Historical Society of Whitehall.

The last two issues of the paper contained the obituary of the editor. The columns outlined in black and expressions of condolence from the newspapers exchanges, of which there were many. In the last issue, Mr. Wilkins personal column, "Sanctum, Sanctorium" was left vacant.

The Whitehall Times April 30, 1987

Town Topics 1914 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The next run we have of a Whitehall newspaper is that recalled the Town Topics which began 7 April 1914. The last issue we have is dated 29 December 1915. Its later history is not known right now. This unbound group of papers was a subscription of Matie Henry of the candy making Henry sisters who presented them to the Historical Society of Whitehall after it was reactivated.

The Town Topics was a small paper in size, ten by seven and a half inches. The first issue is missing but the second and subsequent issues declare its purpose to be a paper that "could be as interesting as a letter from the old folks back home." It must have succeeded for George King said that it was eagerly awaited and avidly read. He may have been one of its newspaper boys at that time.

The publisher was Henry J. Talford who published the paper from the Commercial Printery in the basement of his building on 30 Church. The location as

given in his wife's advertisement for a roomer as next door to "Mrs. Sleight's boarding house." This house was at the corner of High and Church Streets. Town Topics had advertisements.

The Whitehall Times
July 16, 1987

Whitehall Chronicle 1915
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

This year of 1915 the Whitehall Chronicle celebrated its 75th birthday. The Inglee boys ran the paper, succeeding their father W.B. Inglee, Sr. and L.D. Tefft who had it for a quarter of a century. The two boys Thomas R. and William B. now managed the paper. They were among the members of the National Guard when it went to the Mexican border in 1916.

The Whitehall Times
July 23, 1987

Town Topics 1915
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The 3 November 1915 issue of the Second Year Number 31 of the Town Topics appeared in an enlarged form. From its original size of 10 x 7 1/2 inches with four pages, occasionally expanded to six or eight it increased to 15 1/2 x 11 with four pages. At this time Proprietor Henry J. Talford stated that he had started the paper as a source of amusement. However it had grown in public favor and when desired to discontinue it his friends protested. He yielded to the request to continue with it enlarged and improved. There had been a big growth in advertisements and subscriptions. He pledged anew to print clean reliable news.

The last issue of the paper in the Research Library's files is 2 December 1915 with Number 39. There had been no announcement that it was to be discontinued. The library would welcome any further issues of this paper if they are in existence.

The Whitehall Times
January 9, 1986

Bits and Pieces 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Whitehall Chronicle in its issue of 1 September stated it would cease operating 8 September. Business depression was given as the reason for suspension. It was among the oldest papers in Washington County, having been established in 1840.

The Whitehall Independent
June 29 1983

The Joker
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Carlos O. Smith was a printer by trade. He took a flyer in publishing newspapers - the first one on record in 1852 called The Joker and the second one in 1871 entitled The Washington County News. The second one was under the name of Carlos O. Smith & Co., the company being William W. Lougee.

The Joker was a four page, 8 ½ by 11 ½ (*inch*) paper, printed on newsprint not used now. This early kind of paper, rag content, accounts for the keeping qualities of earlier papers.

The Research Library has only four issues of the Joker. There could be other issues around in attics or storage places where families keep such mementoes. The mast head reads The Joker. Under it are the words "Never Go round a Mud Puddle When You Can Wade Through". It was a monthly begun in October 1852. Volume 1 No. 9 stated that it was so successful that it would be printed semi-monthly. Unfortunately that is the last issue on file.

Its three columns per page are filled with matters on the light and witty side. Not a Punch or a Life, its: incidents, poetry, and stories tend to be humorous, though some are written with an acid touch.

In issue No. 6 Editor Smith described his effort. How long it pleased his readers we have no way of knowing. These are some of his comments.

This paper presents the readers with a sheet that compares favorably with any in its class - a paper entirely original and containing the choicest crumbs of wit and wisdom. We have the services of several of the ablest comic writers in the country, whose contributions would grace the columns of any paper in the world and whose literary labors will now be exclusively bestowed upon The Joker.

In this village we have The Rev. Boanerges Buncome, D.D.; the satirical "Thwacking"; the quaint and spicy "Mrs. Overtheleft"; and the pretty poet,

"E----", from whose gifted pen our readers may expect much to improve and instruct. Out of town we have the comical "Goitboots" and the humorous "Obediah

Overthelleft" who will keep us supplied with every thing of interest transpiring in their respective towns. Besides these, we have a score of occasional correspondents of the first class and several foreign correspondents. Thus it will be seen that we are possessed of all the necessary elements of success, and the assertion may be received as a "fixed fact" that the Joker is bound to succeed - and to exert an influence in society.

The Whitehall Times August 8, 1974

The Story of the Whitehall Times Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



The forefather of the present Whitehall Times was a paper entitled The American Sentinel. Its first issue appeared Friday, 8 June 1855, under the editorship, according to its ownership statement, of two brothers, John G. Watkins and Julian A. Watkins. The printing office was in the Chapin Block, first flight up. This building was erected in 1848 on the present site of the J. B. Appliance Center, corner of Division and Main Streets, then Division and Canal streets. For a long time it was said to be the finest building in town.

As can be seen in the picture of its masthead, there is a bust encircled by branches with leaves and berries. The name under the wreath is W. Roberts, SC; whether these are the initials of a real person, perhaps the artist, is not known. Under that was written the motto of the paper, which was Democratic in politics: Democracy — The Corner-Stone of the Union. A statement to the advertisements on the second page said: "The American

Sentinel has the largest circulation of any paper published in Whitehall." The Whitehall Chronicle was being published at that time also.

From two front pages of this paper of 1860 issues in the file of the Town Historian some description can be made. The terms of subscription are interesting to compare with today's prices. The subscription price was \$1.00 but if one waited to pay at the end of the year it was \$1.50. Those who wished it delivered paid \$1.50 but if they delayed payment till the end of the year it was \$2.00.

Readers of old newspapers note that the business advertisements ran long after some businesses went out of existence. Perhaps the rate of advertising had something to do with that practice. The costs were given for periods of time: One column per year, \$50; one-half year, \$25; one-fourth year, \$15; two squares for one year, \$10; for six months, \$7; one square for one year, \$7; for six months, \$4. The contracts evidently were honored completely.

The American Sentinel was of a fair size, 17 ½ inches by 23 ½ inches. The paper content is such that the copies available are almost like pieces of cloth, not crumbly as newspapers of today soon become.

The first column of the front page contained cards of professional men, hotels, and a few businesses. It seems odd to see stores of Albany, Troy and New York advertised on the front page, but it was to these places that people of Whitehall did travel for trade. Advertisements were continued in the last two columns of the second page. The front page contained poetry and fiction. At this time there were not many magazines available for light reading and newspapers filled the need. Some titles were "Married in Jest," "The Way to Keep Him," and "A Critical Moment." News items covered the world for again people did not have common means of communication daily as they do today with TV and radio. The advertisements catered to the wants and tastes of the people of those days, as ours do today. M. Clark on Williams street made mantles and table tops of marble. Parks House and Phoenix Hotel had carriages to carry passengers to and from the cars like our airplane limousines. Charles Lotrace had a blacksmith shop for horse shoeing and iron repairs. Dwight and Brown had a foundry; (at one time there was a Dwight Street north of Bellamy Street). H. C. Jillson had a new hay scales by the Old Phoenix Hotel site where the Firemen's Pole stood, near Lock 12. Dayton's new block of three stores was completed on Canal Street.

Mrs. M. Doherty had her hat shop at this early date on Williams Street. William Cain dealt in rigging, sails, blocks, flags, and thimbles in his chandler's shop on the Bar.

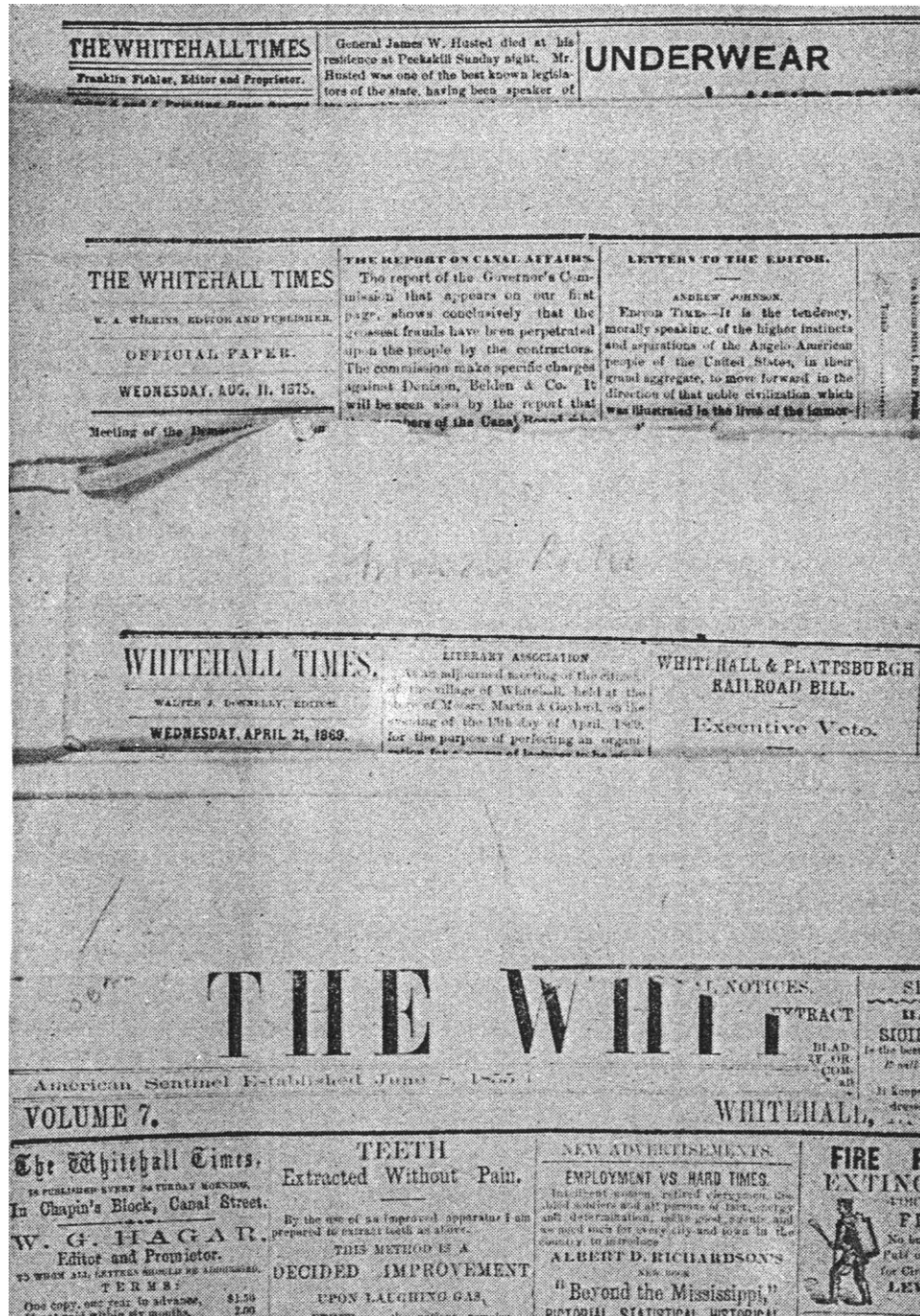
Local news was not too prevalent in these copies. The lock-up was in deplorable condition. A list of manufactures showed the town was in good financial condition. The Town Meetings were recorded, and there were "digs" at the Republicans.

In some histories and gazetteers John E. Watkins is listed as the organizer of The American Sentinel. He, however, was the man who started The Whitehall Democrat in 1845, according to the ownership statement of that paper, several copies of which we have.

Orange and Lucretia Race Watkins had five sons, three of whom made a livelihood in journalism. John G. and Julian are listed in the paper as the editors. At the same time Julian was a civil engineer and land surveyor with his headquarters listed as the Sentinel office. He was also in the employ of the state on the Champlain Canal, assistant resident for two years and Justice of the Peace.

The Whitehall Times
August 15, 1974

The Whitehall Times
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



The accompanying chart takes one beyond this week's story of The Whitehall Times in ownership statements, but succeeding issues will give the explanations. Read from the bottom which is from an 1867 issue.

On 8 December 1860, five and a half years after **The American Sentinel** appeared it became known as **The Whitehall Times**. In this year one Hiram T. Blanchard purchased the paper and changed its name. All we have for this publisher is that he had established the Whitehall Chronicle 18 June 1840. The Blanchard name is in the Whitehall records from the earliest date. No copies of this paper in the early 60's are on file for examination. The same year, 1860, the paper was sold to two people, W.H. Bodwell and A.D. Vaughan. So far, all we have found about these men is that William H. Bodwell married Alvira M. Abell (Ablett) in 1862 and that A. D. Vaughan was a captain and a scorer for the Washington practice game in 1861.

This ownership lasted but a short time for in the summer of 1861 Emerson E. Davis purchased the paper and had for his editor M. Hanson.

The Honorable E. Davis was a well known businessman in Whitehall from the 1860's to his death in 1897. He had various occupations. He was a teacher; he was a lawyer in the firm of Honorable John H. Boyd and a co-partner with Henry Gibson. He ran a steam mill on the east side of the harbor and had a lumber yard on the west side on the Bar. His lumber associates were in companies at various times known as Manville, Scribner and Co.; Manville, Hall and Co.; Davis, Cowen and Percival; and Davis, Percival and Griswold. In the fall and winter of 1864 and 1865 he organized the Whitehall Transportation company which later became the New York and Lake Champlain Transportation Co. He was a state assemblyman for two terms in 1873 and 1874. In Whitehall he lived on the Barney farm in Hatch Hill. Mr. Davis' obituary stated that he "believed in the power of the press and for many years maintained at his own expense a democratic organ in this place. He was liberal in all his transactions with newspapers -- and especially was appreciative in his reward of newspapermen and others who did him favors."

The Whitehall Chronicle reported 19 July 1861 "Col. A.P. Hanson has ceased to be the editor of **The Whitehall Times**. This paper will hereafter undoubtedly be an unconditional Union paper." After A. P. Hanson, W. J. Smith became the editor under the ownership of E. E. Davis in 1862 and 1863. Johnson's History of Washington County states that one W. G. Hogan became the editor and proprietor in 1863 and was succeeded in ownership again by E. E. Davis with Editor George W. Brizee. We wonder if this name in 1863 was in error for copies of the 1867 edition give the editor and proprietor as W.G. Hagar.

An examination of these issues of 1867 show that the paper remained the same in size and format but that the publication day was now Saturday. The office was still in the Chapin block. The masthead contained no picture or motto but the ears contained the statements: American Sentinel established June 8, 1855 and Whitehall Times established Dec. 8, 1860. The front page now had three columns of advertisements, and advertisements on pages 3 and 4 now contained pictures of products. The stories on the front page were lengthened and were fewer in number. The back page was completely filled with advertisements, many of them singing the praises of patent medicine. The Times job printing one boasted "As an advertising medium the Times has no equal in Washington County."

Local news was still scarce but accounts of fires and the deeds of the fire fighters were lengthy. The fire this year was in the south end of the block between Division Street and Saunders Street (to be at that time). The Thurman Block and Fosdick Places bordering Fosdick Alley and the Renois buildings (two north from Saunders Street) were destroyed. Insurance usually didn't cover the losses.

In 1868 **The Whitehall Times** started a more permanent period of production when Walter J. Donnell became its editor and proprietor.

The Whitehall Times **August 22, 1974**

The Whitehall Times **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

The next editor and proprietor of **The Whitehall Times** was Walter J. Donnelly. We have been unable to find any personal history of this man. According to his own account in the paper, he purchased the news sheet about 1 October 1868. His farewell editorial five years later is rather interesting; in part it reads:

"The then (1868) managing editor informed us that the paper could not live after election — that being the fall of the Presidential Canvass between Grant and Seymour — as the PARTY would not support it. During all this time the undersigned (Donnelly) has kept it afloat unaided by "party pap" — therefore aloof from the baneful influence of "party rings," independent, outspoken on every subject, always aiming for what appeared to us in the best interests of the masses."

The Times has been "raised from the grave that was inevitably opening for it under the former owners and placed it among the best paying newspapers in Northern New York; thus demonstrating the fact that a newspaper independent of cliques and political demagogues can be made to sustain itself; and although we feel that we have been scarcely able for the task, yet we retire from the chair editorial knowing that we have been measurably successful."

Mr. Donnelly kept the paper its same size, approximately 18 ½ by 25 inches with four pages. He went back to Wednesday for publication day. According to his job advertisement the office was still in the Chapin block, which is described as "Between Hall's Hotel and the First National Bank. We have one issue in 1869 and several for five years later in 1873. A column that appeared fairly regularly was "Hiram Green, Esq." This was written in supposedly phonetic language and could be on almost any topic. This was the pen name of W. T. Wilkins who became the next editor of the paper and from 1859 had had a clothing store in Whitehall.

Advertisements still took a large amount of paper. The paper had seven columns. The front page had two columns of advertisements; the third page four, and the fourth page, six. Some of the stores that are not so common in our lists were H. W. Davis clothing store; J. Goldring's clothing store; John O'Reilly's boat building; the Whitehall Iron Works; and Frank Fish's harness shop.

Five years later in 1873 the mast head had acquired a slogan: "Be Just and Fear Not." The paper now had eight columns. Advertisements appeared in four columns on the front page, the same for page two; five for the third page, and seven on the fourth page. Interior sections had columns called "Briefs" which gave -odds and ends of about anything; "Wise and otherwise" which did the same for world and local topics, and "About Home matters" which gave local items of interest. Stories and occasionally poetry still appeared on the first page.

In November, 1870, the **Washington County Chronicle** burned and all its equipment (presses, machinery and type). Not even as much as a shooting stick was saved, its editor reported. The one page sheet put out 5 November, was printed on the Whitehall Times press. In acknowledgement the editor said: "We wish to return our acknowledgements to Mr. Walter J. Donnelly of the **Times**, for the use of his office, types and press in the publication of this imperfect issue. The offer was generously and nobly made, and was characteristic of the gentlemanly editor who made it. We take this opportunity to say that during the two years that we have been in the same business in the same village not a word has appeared in either of the journals concerning the respective editors that we at this moment could wish unsaid. We have ever found him courteous and obliging, and we wish him the success and prosperity which will attend him."

To wind up his ownership of **The Whitehall Times**, it remained for Mr. Donnelly to insert in his last issue and the first issue of the next editor a notice of the sale and the manner of the take-over. "By an arrangement with the new proprietors of the **Times**, the paper will be forwarded at our expense to the end of the term for which any person has paid. Bills will be sent to all indebted to us for the **Times**, advertising, or job work and our friends will confer a great favor by remitting the sums to us at an early day." All communications were to be sent directly to Mr. Donnelly, not the **Times**.

The Whitehall Times **May 19, 1988**

American Star / Whitehall Union 1856 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

In October 1856 the first issue of the "American Star" appeared in Whitehall edited by C. Smith, Esquire. He was the former editor of the "Joker," a humorous paper. The first issue was labeled Volume 1 No. 52 -rather odd. His purpose was to "dis-seminate humanity." This paper was the forerunner of the "Whitehall Times" that appeared in 1865.

In November 1856, the publication of the "Whitehall Union" was suspended. Editor Allen informed his readers that it would be resumed in the spring. We do not have even one issue of this paper.

The Whitehall Times
January 23, 1975

Albany Switch 1856
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

An Albany newspaper has been added to our file of out-of-town newspapers by Mrs. Helen King. It is a copy of the Albany Switch of 12 April 1856 published in the office on Beaver street as "a literary, satirical, quizzical, critical, musical, sporting, dramatic, miscellaneous, and family journal." According to its volume number it was established in 1840.

The Whitehall Times
April 21, 1988

Whitehall Chronicle in the 1850's
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Research Library has a run of the Whitehall Chronicle in the 1850s, an asset in research for that period. The donor is not known but we are grateful for the thoughtfulness that brought them.

This paper was four pages, seventeen inches wide and twenty two and a half long. It was printed at the Chronicle office which at that time was on Canal Street, upstairs in the Griswold Block. The Griswold family owned several buildings on that street before the fire of 1860. In the first part of the decade the printer and publisher were J. D. Blount and O.G. Skinner. In 1853 B. B. Smith became the publisher.

The arrangement of the paper with its fine print is unlike that of today's papers. The front page is devoted entirely to literature - short stories and poems. The second may have political opinions or some editorial matter. The third and fourth are devoted to advertisements among which are sprinkled vital statistics, items about businesses, and tables of trains and ships. Read with a magnifying glass one can find a great amount of information which will be given in the gleanings that will follow.

The Whitehall Times
May 26, 1988

Gleanings from the Whitehall Chronicle of 1860
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Getting information on subjects piecemeal like this from runs of newspapers doesn't make a subject whole, but occasionally there is a bonus as this about the

Whitehall Chronicle. The issue of 20 March 1857 was the last issue put out by editor F. C. Smith. In the 27 March issue gave the story of his tenure. In October 1852 he entered the newspaper field as partner of John D. Blount and Charles K. Skinner. In March 1855 Benjamin B. Smith became editor. Benjamin died in 1856 and F. C. Smith took his place. Now in 1857 the paper was transferred to Henry D. Morris. F. C. Smith moved to Fairhaven, Vt. (as the place was then spelled) to engage in another occupation. He urged the readers to favor the new editor as they had him, especially by paying for their subscriptions. A month later the paper moved into new quarters from Griswold's Block upstairs to Myers Block, upstairs two doors north of the Old Bank, over Winter's Store.

The Whitehall Chronicle was a Republican paper while the Whitehall Times was Democratic. Benjamin Carpenter used to chuckle as he told me that the editors of the two papers would get together and decide which items they would stress in their own paper each week.

In his first issue of the Chronicle Mr. Morris stated his position as editor, publisher and printer. His aim was to do right and thereby do good; to advocate and support the principles of true Republicans. He supported Temperance and was for Prohibition. He had no compromise with that body and soul destroy of mankind. His front page proclaimed the paper was: Dedicated to Politics, the cause of Education, Literature, Agricultural interests, local news and general, intelligence.

The Whitehall Times **August 6, 1987**

The Washington County News **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

On Saturday 11 March 1871 one of the many papers of Whitehall, The Washington County News, appeared. It was published in Whitehall by Carlos O. Smith & Co. a 13 ½ by 9 ½ inch paper of eight pages printed all in one sheet. It was delivered uncut at the top.

In his salutatory editorial, Mr. Smith stated his purpose was to fill the needs of the business of the town and give news of the county. He claimed it would be nonpartisan, being free to express his own opinions on all subjects. He promised good reading material, advertisements on all pages rather than a jumbled mess on one page, at least one column on agricultural matters, and one on domestic items "for the ladies." The price was one dollar a year.

The first issue had a poem and a story "My Marriage" on the "front page, continued on the second where there was one column of county news. The third page had state news and two columns of advertisements. Often advertisements occupied one column. The fourth page had news, advertisements, and the editorial. The fifth and sixth pages contained local news and advertisements; the seventh, the Housewife's

Department, and advertisements, and the eighth, the agricultural columns for the family and advertisements.

Like all early paper schedules of the railroad and steamers were included. Religious notices included the, services of the churches, Notre Dame listed as St. Joseph's. In the list of societies long gone ones are found. In this issue was, G.A.R., Corbett Post, St. Joseph's and St. Patrick's Total Abstinence and Benevolence Society.

Much can be gleaned from advertisements. A book of taming vicious horses could be purchased at the printing office. Bill posting was an important piece of work. Painters, glaziers, and paper hangers were needed. Locations of businesses were given, such as Joseph Hurtubis in his shop on Williams Street under the gun shop of. A. Selden.

The Whitehall Times **August 17, 1972**

The Washington County News - 1871 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

The Washington County News, Devoted to the interests of the Republican Party, was published in Whitehall beginning in 1871 with S. Carver, jr., as publisher.

Scattered copies are in the file with here and there a run of a few issues. This is so of the five weeks in the month of June 1872, now a hundred years ago. The makeup of newspapers then differs from today in some respects.

The front page is devoted mainly to fiction and poetry with such titles as "The Old Cartman or Life in California"; "The Deacon's first and last word," or "The Magic Word". There is even information on how to subdue a kicking horse and marriage advice such as "Never-both be angry at the same time".

The right hand column of the 20 by 15 inch paper is called "Odds and Ends" and contains everything - world news, editorial observations, and jokes. The left hand column contains the business cards of professional and business men of the village and the location of their rooms. These five issues give us these people, all of whom were located on Canal Street except two - that long street that ran generally north and south, the length of the village.

Lawyers were Tanner and Potter and W.H. Tefft. A.C. Hopson was an architect and builder, who erected many of the buildings still in town. Dentist A. R. Eaton was closing his office during this month and requesting his patrons to transfer their work to Dr. J. Gilchrist, who already had his notice in the paper.

Whitehall's doctors at that time were H. K. Bennett, E. W. Gordon and William Smith. In a later Issue Dr. William Renois advertised the drug store that he opened at the corner of Canal and Saunders streets.

J.A. Watkins and William P. Lamb were insurance agents, C. W. Adams was a photographer while C. C. Adams ran a stationary store and A. M. Farrington sold groceries and liquors.

The second page had a box for the Republican ticket of 1872: Ulysses S. Grant of Illinois for president and Henry Wilson of Massachusetts for his running mate. One

exceptional note is that Mr. Grant was not at the Philadelphia convention. He sent his acceptance by letter from Washington, D.C. The letter contained four sentences the first, a pledge of fidelity, the second, the hope of experience; the third, a declaration of aims; the fourth, an invocation of peace. Contrast this with the acceptance speeches heard of late!

Connected with the coming election also were expressions of surprise that Horace Greeley would run as a Democrat and a rundown of all his faults from the Republican point of view. Letters to the Editor pro and con were features.

Other Items on the second page were news items from surrounding villages and the world in general.

People are the same in any age, it would seem, and some of the comments sound familiar in today's news. Whitehall had two banks but "with water ' power, extensive and cheap rail and water transportation and a very industrious population"; businessmen suggested that a new one was needed. They were opposed by a group who said that such a plan was "too visionary" for Whitehall. This in spite of the facts that transportation was on the increase, real estate up 25 percent, and the merchants had to use banks in other communities for their capital.

A letter signed Progression gives his ideas on why progress was so slow in Whitehall. "First, a few men who oppose every public improvement because it costs something. Heaven, in their imagination, is simply a place where there are no taxes. A pigsty with no taxes to pay is a paradise to those people.

"Second, a few men who oppose every public enterprise unless they can control and make it add to their personal interest.

"Third, the croakers, who say you can't do it here; the fellows who tell how high the steeples are and how cheap they sell peanuts, over at Rutland, but, "You can't do it here".

"If this style of men are allowed to manage public affairs either in the village or school districts, the progress of Whitehall will be slow. But if live men unite in earnest to the work, shove old fogies to the wall, and determine that progress shall be the order of the day in Whitehall there is nothing that can prevent their success."

The Whitehall Times May 31, 1973

The Whitehall Times - 1873 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

W. A. Wilkins returned to Whitehall 14 May to take up the editorship of **The Whitehall Times**. He has purchased new power presses and enlarged the sheet— 29 by 43 inches. He will keep the Democratic principles. He bought the paper from Walter J. Donnelly. The first large sheet appeared 28 May.

The Whitehall Times
August 29, 1974

The Whitehall Times - 1873
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



OLD TIMES HOMES:

First building at the left, the Chapin Block, was the first home of THE TIMES; Across the street, the First National Bank; the second home; last building to the right, the third home.

The Whitehall Times association purchased **The Whitehall Times** 1 May 1873, and placed William A. Wilkins in charge as editor and proprietor. So far we do not know the membership of this stock company. For one as loquacious as Mr. Wilkins it seems odd that it was not described but it was not mentioned in the issue when the name was dropped, 27 April 1880, and when the paper was again enlarged.

Mr. Wilkins began publication with the issue of 13 May 1873. Ten years later he said that he "entered the ranks of journalism without knowing the difference between a nonpareil quad and a long primer space." The issue of 28 May was enlarged to 29 by 43 (21 ½) from 26 by 38 (19) inches and was printed on his new Cottrell and Babcock power press.

Some time along here the office of **The Whitehall Times** was changed from the Chapin block across Division Street to the new First National Bank building. In describing an attempted arson 10 Sept. 1873, Mr. Wilkins described the occupants of this building, the present Williams Insurance and the Chopping Block. The entire third floor was known as Griswold Hall. The second floor held the office of Police Justice Barnes, Lawyer Robert Doig, P. W. Scribner & Co. Lumber, and **The Times**. Underneath the first mentioned offices were the stores of druggist J. R. Broughton, grocer F. Warren, and Bull Brothers, brokers. The First National Bank was under **The Times** office, so that places it on the south side of the building facing Division and Canal streets. The masthead read "Office over the First National Bank."

By 10 Sept. 1873, the subscription list had been increased by 500. On 17 Dec. 1873 the words "Official Paper" were added to the second page ownership heading as the Washington County supervisors had named **The Whitehall Times** and the Salem Press to that service. Advertisements were increased greatly and prestige was growing. In the March 1874 issue, Mr. Wilkins boasted of the amount of reading matter

Out of nine columns the first page had six columns; the second page, five columns, the third page, seven, and the fourth page two. This was set in solid print, giving one-fourth more matter to each column. This all led to the growth and influence of the paper.

So great was the growth of business that the 12 May 1875 issue described the removal of the printing and publishing office and editorial rooms to the village building at Broad and Canal streets. The establishment took over the rooms of the Good Templars, Post Corbett G.A.R., and the Knights of Pythias. The press, stock and sink rooms were separate and the "sanctum" was pleasantly facing the canal. Below were the post office, the telegraph office, the trustees room, Brett and Bascom office, and lawyer H. D. W. C. Hill. The address was No. 2, 4 and 6 Broad Street. Doren and-Earl Insurance agents and grocery and dry goods stores occupied the rest of the building Mrs. Annie Manville gave to the Historical society the complete issues of the papers published by her father, W. A. Wilkins, from 1873 to the date of his death in 1887. The file is a treasure trove for Whitehall's story. In making it a lively and sought after paper this editor was not sparing in details. There were complete programs of events, community and social. Orders of parades were full. Obituaries gave genealogy and historical data. Fires were reported with full praise for the fire companies and men. He changed entries that read "Married" and "Died" to "Cradle," "Altar," and "Casket." A special topic was the canal as it was enlarged. Some of his philosophy can be obtained from the "memory" columns he wrote in the later years.

The Whitehall Times **May 22, 1973**

The Whitehall Times - 1875 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

The offices of **The Whitehall Times** was moved to the village building on Canal Street (Main) to occupy the whole floor formerly used by Good Templars, Post Corbett, G.A.R. and Knights of Pythias.

The Whitehall Times
October 20, 1975

Grandville Sentinel - 1875
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Granville Sentinel has made its appearance. The Sentinel looks well and reads spicy .and we congratulate "Mac" on the general appearance of the paper and wish him success.

The Whitehall Times
September 28, 1978

Whitehall Times - 1878
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

An exchange suggested that **The Whitehall Times** had more than one editor on the staff. Mr. Wilkins replied: "W.A. Wilkins .is .managing editor. He writes the blood thirsty editorials, the scholarly and classical paragraphs, the obituaries and makes out the bills.-William A. Wilkins is the editor who runs the local and miscellaneous departments, carries the bank book (nothing in it) and slows up the devil when an offending subscriber tells the editor to "stop the paper." William Albert Wilkins, the Fighting Editor" is the one whose name is always printed in capital letters so as to make evil doers tremble. This editor, when he has nothing to do, is kept chained up in an iron clad room. He is armed with seven bowie knives, a baseball club. He sits astride a pine coffin drinking warm blood from an empty skull. He usually fills about 14 coffins per week with the remains of those who step into his office to find fault with the editor or that other class who forget to pay up."

The Whitehall Times
September 28, 1978

Celebrating the Seventh Anniversary
Of Wilkins Editorship of the Times - 1880
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Well, a Wilkins who as draper
Once adorned the human body
With "store clothes," and something shoddy,
But now runs a first class paper
Read far and wide — The Whitehall Times —

We pledge thy health in jolly rhymes,
And drink to thee in rhythmic toddy.

Twas well to clothe the inhuman frame
With garments fashioned in high art;
But, by adorning men "Best part".
You have secured the world's acclaim.
Now you gently lead the blind,
You educate and clothe the mind —
And slay grim grief with punster's dart.

Tho' you, like Jacob, may have "served,"
For seven long and weary years,
In hope and doubt, 'mid joy and tears —
And tho' mayhap, you're well deserved
To have your manly virtues sung
But more sweet wives than Brigham Young
The cenotaph The Times well rears.

That "beasts, with seven horns," we've seen;
But every time such horns were blown.
We blue high songs around the thrown —
Perhaps that ailed you too, 1 ween,
The "beasts with seven heads have hissed,"
And Judas-like that may have kissed
Yet, fleeing, they have downward flown.

While you have made old Whitehall ring
With the clarion voices of The Times,
Which blended with the answering chimes
That floated from our Heraldry;
We echoed back from GOUVENEUR
Thought for thought serene and pure —
Each free from scandal, fault or crimes.

Heaping full life's joyous measure,
Giving my best with gen'rous hand.
Thus may your joy and purse expand,
Till each o'erflows with golden treasures,
When your "cold toes to'rd the daisies"
We'll bid farewell, in heartfelt praises,
Sounding your virtues through the land.

This was written by J.T. Reynolds, editor of the Gouveneur Herald, and copied in the 5 May 1880 issue of The Whitehall Times.

The Whitehall Times
March 11, 1976

Whitehall Times
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



A year ago the history of **The Whitehall Times** was carried here up to the last part of the 19th century. It began with its predecessor, the **American Sentinel**, established 8 June 1855, which changed its name to **Whitehall Times** 8 Dec. 1860.

The story continued through the editorships of John S. and Julian A. Watkins, M. Hansom, Walter J. Donnelly, William A. Wilkins, Franklin Fishier and Milo Reynolds. By 25Aug 1905, F. C. Doren and company were the proprietors and Theodore Godbout was the manager.

Details of manager Theodore Godbout have been difficult to find. The Whitehall directory of 1892-93 listed him as living at 58 Mountain Street with occupation as printer. Thus he would have worked with Editors Franklin Fishier and Milo E. Reynolds.

He evidently took charge of the paper when Mr. Reynolds left some time in 1902 or 1903.

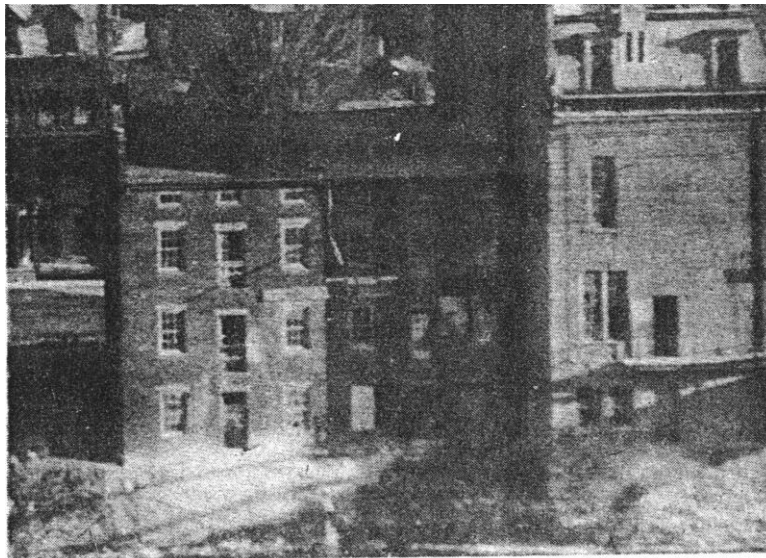
Mr. Godbout had three children who died in a diphtheria epidemic. A later son, James Burdett Godbout, followed his father's occupation and worked as a linotype operator at the same time on **The Times**.

Two young women of Whitehall worked in **The Times** office in the 1890's. All work at that time was done by hand; the two young ladies, Mary Brown Whitehead and Kate Shields, set type and did clerical work.

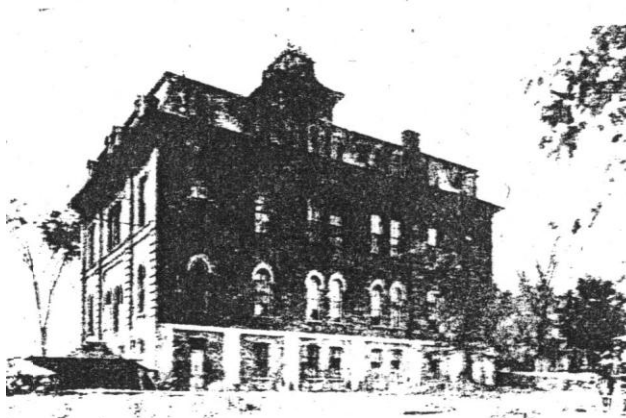
Theodore Godbout at one time was a game warden and was interested in politics.

The Whitehall Times September 5, 1974

The Whitehall Times Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



HOME OF THE TIMES. After locations on Canal street (now Main). The Times moved to its present home in 1887. Present village building, at right, had not undergone remodeling.



SCHOOL REOPENS: First Central Building located on Pierce's Knoll, School Street. This building was razed in 1924, to make way for what new, part of the old High School

Mr. Wilkins gave his advertisers full credit for their money. Besides the regular space columns he ran newsy paragraphs describing their goods, places of business and services. Delightful were his Christmas issues where Santa roamed the streets from store to store buying gifts.

Pictures were not yet prevalent to enliven the news except in advertisements. Many businesses had trade mark signs which were printed. Occasional pictures of political candidates on the state and national level appeared.

Whitehall did not celebrate its own place in history during the years 1875-1877 except for a parade and a "party" at the Opera House. Shortly after the Centennial some local history articles appeared on the front page. Rev. A. H. Finch wrote the story of Lafayette and his visit ? to Whitehall in 1824 and there were some on Lake Champlain.

The Lake Champlain Sea Serpent story printed in 1873 was a pleasant hoax that Mr. Wilkins derived great pleasure from. His wit and witticisms were copied by other papers; Wilkins Star Proverbs: "Where ignorance is folly, it is bliss to be wise." Sanctum Onius Levity: "A good carpenter is known by his chips but a good barber is known by his shavings."

Other column headings were: About Home gave Whitehall news; What We Know About Everybody, foreign news; Press and Literary, book reports and story reviews (Harper's, Scribner's, Nicholas); From Dan to Beersheba, the outside world; All About Us, nearby communities; Scissor-Isms, clippings from either papers.

On anniversaries, Mr. Wilkins liked to reminisce and "blow his own horn" a little. In 1874 he noted the 14th anniversary of **The Times** and his first year as editor: "We shall make **The Times** second to none." In 1875 he printed praises of **The Times** from other papers. In 1876 the **Yonkers Gazette** said about **The Times**: "As a sturdy advocate of democratic principles, **The Times** had done more good services under the editorship of W. A. Wilkins who finds time, also, to get off some of the best witticisms which are current in the press today."

In 1877 Mr. Wilkins lashed out at the **Whitehall Chronicle** for things it had printed. This was followed by an apology in which he said he thoroughly despised such journalism and that it would not happen again, in 1882 it was said of **The Times**, it is "strong, better and fresher than ever. Its name has been carried to every village, town and city on the continent where a newspaper is printed." In 1883 Mr. Wilkins said his tenth

year as editor was "Neither a Vanderbilt Income nor a Lazarus Poverty" and "The fraternity of editors is a brotherhood joined together in bonds of sympathy and if the harness occasionally chafes, words of encouragement have never been wanting to lighten our burden,"

And 18 May 1887 the editorial read "We salute our many thousand readers this week from our new quarters in **The Whitehall Times** building on Printing House Square. Now we have a sanctum, counting room and composing room on the first floor facing Hall's Hotel, with a large and convenient press and job room in the basement, with its floors and doors on a level with the ground, on the creek side of the building. This in fact brings all of our departments on first floors, as the building is so situated on sloping ground, making this most desirable convenience possible. Our composing room sanctum and counting rooms are delightfully situated while our press and jobbing room is unsurpassed by any printing convenience in this locality."

The address of this new office was No. 5 and 7 Printing House Square. It sounds imposing. **The Whitehall Chronicle** had several different locations in its history and at one time was printing in the building now occupied by the Odd Fellows hall at 16 Printing House Square. Perhaps the two editors put their heads together and came up with the address.

The Whitehall Times October 10, 1974

Whitehall Times – 1863-1887 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Editors of The Times have always played an important role in the affairs of the village and town. William A. Wilkins was prominent in the village life.

Born in Cherry Valley 26 March 1840, he was taken as a child with his family to Cohoes where he was a pupil of President Chester A. Arthur, whom he always admired.

Mr. Wilkins came early to Whitehall and became associated with a clothing business which he advertised in The Times thus: "W. A. Wilkins will be in Whitehall about April 1, 1873, with samples of spring goods representing the well known house of Devlin & Co. of New York." Thereafter the advertisement read: "W. A. Wilkins will be happy to see his old friends and patrons at the store of Baker, Paterson & Co."

In September, 1863, Harriet Griswold, daughter of I. C. Griswold, and William A. Wilkins were married by the Presbyterian minister, the Rev. Lewis Kellogg. There were two children, Annie, who willed the Isaac C. Griswold Library to the village, and Chester, who perhaps was named for Chester A. Arthur.

Mr. Wilkins was editor of The Whitehall Times from 1873 to 1887. In the obituary, W. H. Tefft of the Chronicle wrote "Mr. Wilkins found The Times a mere village paper having only local circulation and reputation. He left it with a national reputation and with a circulation beyond that of the average country paper."

He had just been elected president of the State Press Association, a great honor in the field of journalism, during his years in Whitehall he represented the Democratic Party

in local and state affairs, and served as village treasurer and canal collector for several terms. He satirized the political methods of his times in a novel. "Cleverdale."

His death occurred 2 Aug. 1887. The funeral procession to Boardman Cemetery followed the old custom of friends on foot accompanying the hearse.

In the 9 March 1887 issue of The Times, the editorial comment was: During The Year 1887 The Whitehall Times Will Take no back seat, Publish the best of papers, Give all the local news, Be wide awake, Continue original, Be the people's paper, Fear no wrong, Expose wrong doers, Stand by advertisers, Be just and generous, Show its usual enterprise, Uphold its home interests, Fight for the right, Stand by its convictions, Wear no man's collar, Pursue no phantoms, Stand by Pres. Cleveland, Back up Governor Hill.

The Whitehall Times October 17, 1974

Whitehall Times – 1892-1897 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The issues of 3 and 10 August 1887 are the last of the newspaper we have for the year 1887. The 3 August issue had been set up by Mr. Wilkins before his death and no editor was listed for the 10 August issue. The staff must have taken over after that for a time. Not being listed in the ownership and management column the various staffs of the newspaper are almost unknown for the earlier years except for an occasional news item.

Franklin Fishier was the next editor of **The Whitehall Times**. William L. Stone in his history of Washington County states that Mr. Fishier took control of the paper 19 September 1888. We have the issue of 17 October 1888 which credits him with being editor and proprietor with his offices at 5 and 7 Printing House Square. Another single issue of the paper of 10 July 1889 is still the same in size but by 1892 **The Times** had changed in size and format. From a fire in its rooms **The Whitehall Times** was able to save only three books of its papers in the 1890's and from these valuable charred remains local history can be obtained.

By the "Gay Nineties" the paper had changed to an eight page six column weekly now issued on Thursday. In size it could be easier handled with pages 15 by 21 inches. The front page had in its first column the business cards of professional men and tradesmen. The news was from all over the world but fiction still had a place. The sixth column still had advertisements.

The editorial page contained comments on a variety of subjects, local and state wide. Here village trustees meetings were reported and books and magazines mentioned. The page following contained the regular feature "Local News and Gossip" and was just that. A feature was "Among the Railroad Boys." Another column headed "Things We've Heard About" contained personals. The eighth page was often the one that contained the news from nearby New York and Vermont communities.

Advertisements were placed on all pages, the same week after week but not now dated. Pictures of products were frequent but attention was attracted more by

arrangement and size of type, as for example the clothing store whose message was contained in the use of x's.

The rest of the pages contained all sorts of world news, vignettes, and fiction. A newspaper then was still taking the place of what we get in television, radio, and magazines.

The Times has a history of continual growth. In 1892, because of the greater volume of job printing, Mr. Fishier obtained a room 24 x 50 feet on the second floor of The Times Building and fitted it up for a composing room, branch stock room, and store room. All the typesetting was done in this room and the large ground floor was to be devoted entirely to the job printing department. An elevator for the lifting of the forms from the composing room to the press room was arranged. By May 1 a new Hoe Cylinder press of larger capacity than the press then used and fitted with all the improvements that had been added to the cylinder presses of the past 15 to 20 years was installed. Mr. Fishier editorialized **The Times** does not propose to stand still. It will continue to improve. The same desire should be found in every business enterprise in the village. If it were, the town would soon become the liveliest and most prosperous in the state.

In February 1894 new type was in use in the paper and the comments printed in later issues tells something of the reputation of **The Whitehall Times** among its neighbors. **The Ticonderoga Sentinel**: Our enterprising neighbor celebrates Washington's Birthday by coming out in an entire new dress. It requires some "get up and get" to afford anything of that kind at the present time. **The Cambridge Post**: In appearance it is one of the most genteel publications that comes to our office and is well edited. The **Sandy Hill Herald**: It (is) one of the most attractive weeklies on our exchange list. It is one of the two Democratic papers in the county and it is not its fault but its party's weakness in Democracy does not make inroads into the ranks of its more progressive antagonist in old Washington. And **The Granville Sentinel**: Brother Fishier is a "first class" editor and "gets up" an excellent paper. He deserves the success which **The Times** under his management has attained.

The Whitehall Times **October 31, 1974**

Whitehall Times - 1894 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Milo C. Reynolds, the next editor of The Whitehall Times, had established the Cambridge Journal in that village in November, 1894. After six months he and Franklin Fishier consolidated the two papers with the printing office in Whitehall. The first issue of the partnership was put out 11 April 1895.

The consolidation notice reported that the plants of the two offices would be combined as soon as the material and machinery could be moved from Cambridge to Whitehall: "Mr. Reynolds is a practical printer and a newspaperman of experience, push and ability and will add vigor to the concern."

The format of The Times remained the same with a gradual increase in space for local news. The editorial of 3 Oct. 1895 proved that people in general don't change much. It advised that readers complain that items of interest don't appear in the paper, that they evidently thought the editor should know by intuition all about every little thing that happened. It went on to say that the editor had not the time nor resources to gather everything and would be grateful if the people would see that he had such items: "He is even more anxious than the reader to have all the news in his paper."

A year later, 3 Sept. 1896, there was another change in ownership. Mr. Fishier retired and Mr. Reynolds purchased his interest in the paper to become the sole owner. His first editorial read:

"The policy of The Times will remain unchanged — loyally supporting the Democracy and championing the principles promulgated by Jackson and Jefferson . . . The Times will be a newspaper for Whitehall. 'Our Town First' will be the inscription on its banner."

In the same issue the editor noted, "You will remember that this is a weekly publication, each issue containing from 12 to 15 complete stories and other interesting matter. A dozen others might be commented on if we had the space." The Times advocated the reading of books and magazines, even offering special subscription rates to the current ones like "The Waverly" for ten cents.

On 17 Nov. 1900, Mr. Reynolds proudly proclaimed the first issue of The Whitehall Daily News. The salutatory ran:

For the first time in the history of Whitehall it has the distinction of having a daily paper, even if it is only for a few days. The Times bows before the public tonight, as it will for the three succeeding nights, and makes no promises. Therefore it has none to fulfill.

"The daily edition of The Times is issued in honor of Company I, its beautiful armory and the fair which marks its opening. While it is distinctly a fair edition and the greater part of its columns will be devoted to the company, other news matter will find first place in its columns. The edition will be circulated free.

"With this brief salutatory, we say, Good Evening, and in behalf of the officers and members of Company I, welcome you to the fair."

The next day the paper stated, "The Times daily edition is very popular and large crowds watch the press when printing. The press hour is 11 o'clock."

The Whitehall Times October 24, 1974

Whitehall Times - 1896
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



Sources we have for Franklin Fishler's biography are few, the main one being a sketch by his son Bennett for the Bicentennial issue of The Times 16, July 1959. He said:

"His father was editor and proprietor of The Whitehall Times for nearly ten years. He was a first class newspaperman in every respect . . . When he was editor; he did quite a lot for Whitehall. He got baseball started and played a pretty darned good second base and could pitch if necessary. Even then the rivalry between Whitehall and Granville was intense."

Bennett Fishier goes on to say that his father was a fighting editor and described several situations almost to the point of a libel suit. His editorials were copied by other papers. Interestingly enough, he tells that there was friendly cooperation between The Times and its rival the Whitehall Chronicle. The editors would meet, decide on their positions for the week, print their pages and start over again.

He lived at the corner of Williams and McCotter streets. He was the organizer and president of a bicycle club. This sport and pastime was popular in Whitehall during the 1890's and early 1900's. From Whitehall he moved to Newark.

In 1895, according to the 11 April issue, Mr. Fishier took Milo E. Reynolds into partnership with him and the ownership head read "The Whitehall Times and Cambridge Local."

"The Whitehall Times and The Cambridge Local have been consolidated and with this issue appear as one . . . The politics of the paper will remain unchanged — soundly democratic — and every effort will be made not only to keep The Times where it always has been, at the head of the county publications, but no expense or labor will be spared to make it more enterprising, more able and better in every way.

"With the large addition to the subscription list and the great increase in it's jobbing and newspaper facilities, the new concern will be by all odds the best equipped of any in Washington County for issuing a first class newspaper and turning out artistic, practical and up-to-date job printing."

Mr. Fishier sold out to Mr. Reynolds, the announcement appearing in the 3 Sept. 1896 issue.

The Whitehall Times November 14, 1974

Whitehall Times - 1900 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The first copy of The Whitehall Daily Times, Volume 1, Number 1, appeared 27 November 1900 on a Tuesday. It was entitled The Company I Exposition Edition. This first issue of which we have a copy was a small, 15 by 11 inches, four page paper. It was filled almost completely with Whitehall events, personalities, and advertisements. Some other small bits in it were a statement that the Vermont Senate had killed the woman suffrage vote, the lieutenant governor casting the deciding vote; an adage: Learn to laugh; a good laugh is better than medicine; and an announcement that a new 3-cent piece made of nickel was being struck.

The first page copied the program of the Company I Fair at the armory with a concert by Doring's band of Troy and a letter by Captain Greenough from the Philippines to his father describing military affairs.

The second and fourth pages contained the steps taken to secure an armory in Whitehall and a description of the building — "grand in architectural beauty and design. It surpasses any public building in northern New York."

The third page contained the local briefs and personalities of the regular paper. One would suppose these issues took the place of the regular weekly edition that week but there is no complete file of the paper.

On the same day, 27 November 1900, the new Odd Fellows Hall was to be dedicated. Washington County, according to the census office had lost 66 people, going

from 45,690 in 1890 to 45,624 in 1900. The annual Mahan Hose company ball, with Pond's orchestra, had 24 numbers and a supper.

In the early part of the 20th century, supplements to The Whitehall Times took the form of a four-page glossy paper of different sizes. Mr. Reynolds issued one in honor of the Honorable Henry Gordon Burleigh who died 15 August 1900. This included a portrait of the outstanding businessman of Ticonderoga and Whitehall and government official.

An extra of four pages of the regular size was issued on Saturday 20 June 1900 to give an account of the train accident south of Putnam when four railroad employees were killed. This account occupied the front page. The rest of the paper contained the usual material occupying a weekly.

The Whitehall Times by 1902 had but eight pages in its edition. The first page had changed over the years so that now local news occupied the important spaces. The 4 December 1902 issue began the story of the improvement of the Champlain Canal, later begun in 1907 and completed in 1912.

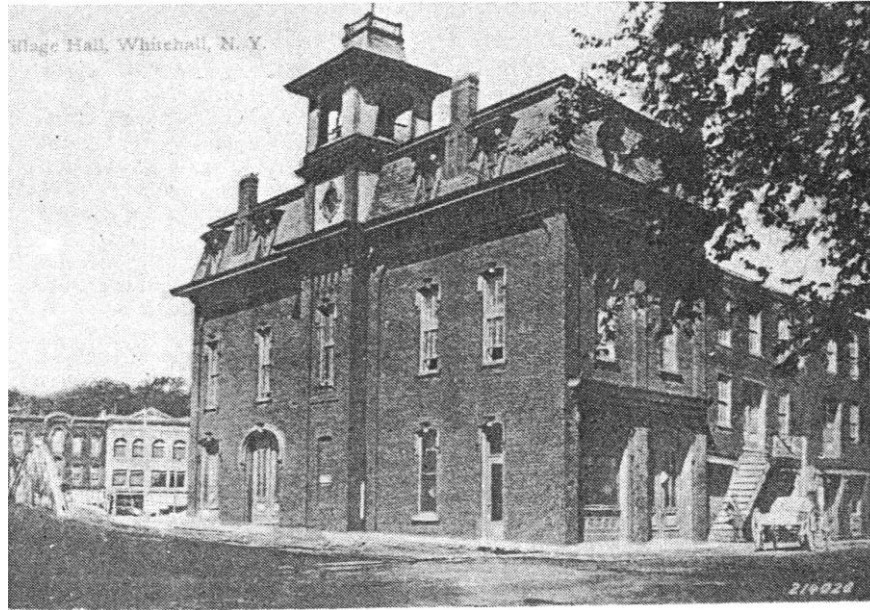
There is a gap in the newspaper file and the next issue we have is 25 August 1904 which gives F. C. Doren and Company as proprietors and Theodore Godbout as manager. The 27 October 1904 issue had Theodore Godbout only in the ownership column as manager. We're in hopes that other material will be found to fill in this gap before we go on with the rest of The Times history. This applies also to the later life of editor Milo C. Reynolds.

Stone's history of Washington County gives some material on his life before he became editor in Whitehall. Mr. Reynolds was born in Eagle Bridge where he was educated, going on to Troy for a business course. On the death of his father, he worked for the man who continued his father's business and then entered a printing office in Eagle Bridge. Learning that trade, he set up, at age 21, the newspaper The Politician, a six-page paper six by nine inches in 1892. A year later it had expanded into a six-column four-page paper. He continued this Democratic paper until 1894 when he moved to Cambridge, taking the newspaper plant with him and starting The Cambridge Local. Six months after that move, he made the next move to Whitehall when he and Franklin Fishier became partners in The Whitehall Times and Cambridge Local. He became sole proprietor in 1896. He married Miss Grace E. Howe in 1898.

Mr. Reynolds was active in the affairs of the Odd Fellows and Knights of Pythias lodges.

The Whitehall Times
March 25, 1976

The Whitehall Evening Times
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



OLD TIME VIEW. Whitehall village building, with tower, before face-lifting operations, with old Saunders street bridge at left. At right of village building, stairs lead to second floor of The Whitehall Times building.

One of Edward F. Roche's dreams had been a daily newspaper for Whitehall. This became a reality 19 May 1926 when he printed Volume 1, Number 1, of the Whitehall Evening Times on the expensive new press he had installed in the basement of The Times building.

The Whitehall Times has the first year's run of this paper. The issues were the same size as the combined Whitehall Times and Whitehall Chronicle printed just before its appearance. Number 1 was a big 24 page issue. After that the number was either four or eight pages, depending on the amount of material.

The masthead proclaimed "The Whitehall Evening Times, Washington County's Only Daily Paper." The left ear contained the weather while the right ear said, "Give your, news and views to The Times."

The first editorial gave the editor's aims and hopes "The possession of these qualities (business acumen, common sense, foresight, progressiveness, public spirit, the good will of the Whitehall people) is well indicated in the advertising columns." The new paper will be as good as the patronage it warrants"; "The growth of many villages began when the dailies were established."

When the first issue of The Whitehall Evening Times appeared, the Hudson Falls Herald said, "We congratulate Edward F. Roche, editor, on his venture, heartily endorse

his hopes, and tender sincere best wishes for the complete success of The Whitehall Evening Times". The Champlain Silk Mills said in an advertisement, "We congratulate 'The Times' upon its enterprise in undertaking a daily newspaper, and the people of the village upon this evidence of progress."

The staff of the paper in 1926 was Edward F. Roche, Editor and Publisher; J. Burdett Godbout, Business Manager; and F. B. Cressey, Advertising Manager. Mr. Cressey left in June and Mr. Godbout in early 1927.

Pictures were not common in the paper, except illustrations in advertisements and some in the Associated Press items. Variety on the page was secured by different size type in headlines. During the first year 1926 special features, were In busy Whitehall; In the Sport Field; At Home and Abroad; Railroad Notes by Hooken Ladder; In the Air Tonight (those radio serials!). There were continued stories like "Love or Death." In 1927 for a time Clarence Holden wrote "Anniversary Sketches This Date." Another one was called "Flickers of Wit and Wisdom" composed of jokes, poetry and storyettes. The first year one page was devoted to automobiles, "A Page of Interest to Automobilists" and in 1927 one entirely to sports.

The first issue chronicled the Whitehall-Ticonderoga road and the Autobus Company's seven buses. Throughout its existence it carried Lindberg's flight to Paris, the Lindberg trial, the Gray trial, the twice selling of the Arlington Hotel, the bridge across South Bay, and Chautauqua.

The June 1926 issue dealt with the graduates, the 50th anniversary that will be celebrated this year. Pictures of the 30 graduates, their complete listing of marks and the complete text of their baccalaureate sermon. One graduate was Benjamin Carpenter of the present Whitehall Times. He was valedictorian: and received that year the Washington County's scholarship to Cornell University. The advertisements for graduate gifts were from business not now in existence. Many will remember the stores of I. J. Persk, Stafford and Fontaine, D. A. Forbush, Merkel and Oilman, A. Sidur, Hamelin's Drug Store, F. J. Mahony, Mulholland's, S. K. Griswold, The Rexall Store of Thomas C. McCann.

June 9, 1927, was called the anniversary issue. The editor exalted that the paper had survived its first year, but said that although the general public had supported the paper, the business support had not been good, but the paper would continue.

The file of the newspaper ends in July, 1927, so the story of its demise is not complete. It occurred about 7 October, 1927, presumably, the week before the resumption of The Whitehall Times, the day of issue changing from Friday to Thursday. Mr. Roche's obituary said the paper changed from daily to twice a week — but a dream had come to an end.

The Whitehall Times **April 1, 1976**

The Whitehall Times - 1927 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

The Whitehall Times resumed its title in late 1927, being printed on Thursday. The format and size remained the same. The advertisements remained large with illustrations.

The year 1928 was the time of the "booze cars" that made headlines. The movies were on every night. Dances were a common entertainment and records of card clubs were frequent. Radio and TV had not yet taken over. Mount Carmel was organized, the National Bank advertised, and the Rebecca Organization was prominent as Mrs. Mae Barker was its state head.

The last editorial of the year of 1928 contained sage advice: "Do not worry about the water that has gone under the bridge; there is more coming down stream; keep your eye on it. 1929 is another year." 1928 also ended with advertisements for roast pork at 17 cents a pound, a large loaf of bread at eight cents, and ten pounds of sugar for 54 cents.

Mrs. Roche began work with the paper in 1930 during the illness of her husband, taking over entirely at his death in 1931. She was born in West Rutland in 1879 Beatrice Elizabeth Tierney. In her youth she worked for the Combination Cash Store in Rutland in the millinery department. She was sent to Whitehall to open a millinery store and soon after owned her own store in the present Army-Navy building. Here was the birthplace of her son James.

After her assumption of The Whitehall Times, Mrs. Roche worked long hours doing all the different kinds of work connected with a paper when much of it was done largely by hand, especially the commercial work. She even took work home at night. She took the paper through the depression years and handed over a "going concern" to her apprentice successor son James in 1958. She died in 1968 at the age of 91.

The Times has developed through the years — with pictures, additional editorials, pictures of people and events, changing special columns. Special editions have occurred — the 1933 demolition of Church Street, the 1959 Whitehall Bicentennial issue, the Recapture of Skenesborough in 1975. One is promised for this July celebration with the New York State Barge, Old Home Week of the Chamber of Commerce, Celebration '76 salute to the building of the first United States Fleet in 1776, and the Firemen's celebration.

Many people have labored in our local journalism field over the years — Lloyd Allen left in 1928 to buy a paper in Newark Valley; Tom Shea (remember his humorous creation of Philip Skene?), John Motley, and Walter Grunfeld, who later bought a paper in Marathon.

Then there are others who have trained in the field of journalism on The Times. Marion Guerin says the printers' ink gets in one's blood and doesn't let go. She worked on The Whitehall Evening Times as an apprentice under Lewis Brown, composing advertisements, setting up type by hand, keeping books, and working "in the pit" when

the run was made. She could even run the linotype machine that Eloise Brown German handled. This was when Mr. Godbout had a sporting goods store in the southern part of the building.

Whitehall is indeed fortunate to have a weekly paper that has its roots in age that might be called tradition but it is not the kind of tradition that is hidebound. We'll learn of the very capable staff that produces this weekly in the next column.

The Whitehall Times **April 15, 1976**

The Whitehall Times **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

(This is a continuation from page 11 of this issue. Unfortunately page 11 can be located at this time. kb)

1935 with a major in commercial subjects, which was the advance training for his present work.

After spending five-years in the Champlain Silk mills, Clarence volunteered for military service in 1940 and as technical sergeant worked in radar experimentation, for, he remembers, exactly "five years, six months, thirty days."

After a short return to the silk mill, Clarence entered **The Whitehall Times** in 1945 as an apprentice for Mrs. Roche, learning the job presses and melting metal. When the paper purchased the Mergenthaler linotype, he was sent to learn its operation and maintenance. He has been setting type ever since. When offset was introduced to the shop, he had to relearn the standard touch on the typewriter. There are two touch systems to use with the different systems using hot metal and the offset process. He uses a Compuwriter which is a computer that photographs type as it is set.

Clarence's workweek is divided into definite times for definite jobs: Monday and Tuesday typing articles for the paper, Wednesday and Thursday typing for job work; Friday catching up on material in general, hoping news items will be brought in early for next week.

Clarence lives with his mother on Saunders Street. His main hobby is walking in the woods. He claims there is very little ground on West Mountain that is not known to him.

Edmourd Touchette

Edmourd Touchette is **The Whitehall Times** photographer, negative worker, artist and cartoonist. Although he has an innate talent for art, he took on academic and commercial course, graduating from Whitehall High school in 1944.

After three years in his country's service, Edmourd returned to Whitehall to work on the railroad and in Whitcomb's Hardware store. From there he went to Roy Jackson's Publications, Inc., in the Doren building. This company printed the "United States Navy Magazine" and the "Medical World." Here with Bert Moody from Poultney and William Jackson, Roy's brother, Edmourd started his career in journalism folding and cutting leaves for the magazines.

In 1952 Edmourd joined the staff, of **The Whitehall Times** where he works on photography in the paper, in copy for advertisements and on job work. This reproduction of pictures, increasing and decreasing the size and placing them properly, is meticulous work.

Edmourd's cartoons in **The Whitehall Times** are on timely subjects. He has given a collection of his early originals to Skenesborough Museum. Unpublished is a cartoon story that he has been compiling for several years. Another hobby is collecting stamps, especially single commemoratives.

Edmourd's wife is the former Shirley Bush, originally from Port Henry. They have two boys and two girls, John, Robert, Kathy and Linda.

Anthony DiResta

Anthony DiResta joined the staff of **The Whitehall Times** in 1953 as a stereotypist, casting mats in metal, and compositor of advertisements. Added to these came the running of the Varitype for headlines, the upkeep of subscription files, and the job work presses. Anthony, after attending Whitehall High school and a short time in the Champlain Silk mills, worked on the project. 1932-1933, that changed the route of the D&H through the village. In 1933 he began work with the State Conservation department in the Blister Rust project and became foreman in the Gypsy Moth control.

This was followed by 11 years in the Champlain Silk service, 1943-1946. Through the advice of Robert Hoy, Anthony then became a member of **The Whitehall Times** staff.

For 11 years Anthony was co-owner with his brother John of the drive-in theatre on Comstock road, with Anthony operator of the movie projector. They sold the business in 1964.

Bowling occupied Anthony's leisure time and fishing in the local waters brought him outdoor exercise. He resides with his wife, Mary McLaughlin, at 23 Adams Street.

Joyce Griffin

Joyce Therrien Griffin, vivacious, friendly receptionist and office manager, came to **The Whitehall Times** in 1971. Her recent predecessors were Miss Laverne Peck, Mrs. Ellen Ciarlone and Mrs. Nancy Eole.

Joyce in a very competent manner takes advertisements, prepares payrolls, keeps books and makes the office run smoothly.

In her high school days, Joyce had after school work on the addressograph machine in William Jackson's Embossing Company. She was graduated from Whitehall High school in 1951 and from Albany Business College in 1952. During this year she worked as secretary in Cottrel and Leonard's store in Albany.

Joyce was married in 1973 to Hiram Griffin. Together they have raised a family of five girls: Penny, Suellen, Betty, Regina and Joyce. This led to Joyce's leadership in the Girl Scouts and work with the Whitehall Athletic association.

Joyce is interested in physical fitness. She participates in a two-hour class each Monday, plays tennis and rides a bicycle. She knits, sews and crochets. Besides this, she

is an active worker in the Catholic Daughters, Parent Teacher association and Hospital Guild.

Joyce lives with her husband, Hiram, on Beckwith Road.

Other Members of the Staff

Advertising managers of **The Whitehall Times** are a husband and wife team, Jane and Frank Cioffi. Jane joined her husband two years ago on a free lance basis while Frank had 19 years of experience taking advertisements in the nearby communities. Frank's initiation to journalism occurred in Rutland where as a newsboy he sold the **Rutland Evening News**, receiving a salary of \$3.00 and a cent for each newspaper. He was the first newsboy to sell the **Albany Times Union** in that city. This team also ran the Blue Goose Restaurant for years.

Two new members of **The Whitehall Times** staff are part-time workers. Bonney Davis works one day a week on subscriptions and as substitute compositor. Carl Isdell comes in to prepare mailing lists and file subscription lists.

The picture of the staff was taken in front of The Whitehall Times building following a tradition of former staff posing in the same place.

Organizations, Clubs & Societies

The Whitehall Times June 16, 1988

Gleanings from the Whitehall Chronicle of 1870's Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In this period of Whitehall's history the topic of temperance was in much evidence. Societies, churches, and the Temperance Society took part. In April 1874 St. Patrick Total Abstinence Benevolent Society of Our Lady of Angels marched from its room to Mass given by Father McDonnell. It reformed under the leadership of A. C. Hopson, marched down Canal Street to the lower bridge, across the bridge to Williams Street to Wheeler Avenue. The line counter-marched back Williams Street to the middle bridge to Canal Street in front of the Hall House and back to its room. The St. Mary's Eighteen Band accompanied the parade. The streets were lively on St. Patrick's morning. Full regalia was worn in spite of the inclement weather. Featured was a group of boys wearing the regalia that had been taught the principle of temperance. Editorial note "May they follow these through life." A sumptuous supper was served in the evening. St. Joseph was to Notre Dame as St. Patrick was to OLA. They met at their room in the Renois Block and went to the church where Father Payette held Mass. There was no parade.

The Whitehall Times
June 20, 1987

Whitehall Chronicle in 1870's
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Masonic Hall: When the present American Legion building was erected in 1860 the third floor was outfitted for the Masonic Hall. The signs of the order were placed in the ceiling and a platform erected on the east. In 1874 a new hall was placed in the red brick Davis downtown. The main room was 55 feet by 25 feet. The floor was covered with Brussels carpet and the furnishings were of the finest of lumber. A suite of three rooms were connected with each other.

The Whitehall Times
August 13, 1987

March 18, 1871
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Sparkling Spring Lodge No. 230 I.O. of G.T. had its lodge rooms over Billett's store just south of Clinton Avenue on the east side of the street.

20 March St; Joseph Society made its annual observance of St. Patrick's Day by marching from their hall to Notre Dame des Victoires, at the corner then of Saunders and Church streets where High Mass was celebrated by Reverend Father Levalle of Montreal.

The Whitehall Times
August 20, 1987

Washington County News - March 1871
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In the Society Meetings listings were three for the Masonic order: Phoenix Lodge No. 96, Champlain Chapter No. 25, and the Hiram Lodge No. 1. Another society was organized in Whitehall in April by the Grand Lecturer of the Grand Council of the State. It was called Council of Royal Select and Super Excellent.

The Whitehall Times
August 31, 1972

Washington County News – June 1872
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The convention of the Independent Order of Good Templars, was held In Whitehall with Whitehall's Sparkling Spring Lodge No. 230 as its host on June 11 and 12. This was a temperance organization. Each lodge had five voting delegates. Whitehall's were James Adams Jr., S. Merwin Smith, T. A. Peterson, S. Carver Jr., and Sister T. A. Paterson. So Whitehall's delegation had 25 per cent of its delegates female.

The Whitehall Times
March 20, 1973

March 1873
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Under the leadership of Father Payette of Notre Dame des Victoires at a Retreat held on Sunday over 40 men joined in forming a temperance society.

St. Patrick's Day was celebrated when St. Patrick's Total Abstinence and Benevolent Society and St. Joseph's Society marched to Our Lady of Angels headed by Holcomb's Drum Corps and St. Mary's Cornet band. A Shamrock ball was held that evening in Anderson Hall where an outside band was assisted by St. Mary's Band and St. Mary's Choir.

The Whitehall Times
June 9, 1988

Whitehall Chronicle - 1874
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

After the Civil War, many veterans' posts were organized and took the name of a veteran. One of Whitehall's posts was the Post John Corbett. In July 1874 in Good Templais Hall (where?) the post held a campfire reception. Reminiscences were given by veterans: H. D and W. C. Hall, Captain W. C. Clark, W. H. Tefft, Hiram Tefft Jr., and Warren C. Goodnick. They dwell on camp life and punishments. Refreshments were served with cake being labeled hard tack, ice cream, and salt pork.

The Whitehall Times
May 9, 1974

Good Templars – May 1874
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Anniversary: Capture of Skenesborough by Green Mountain Boys, 9 May 1775.

In the "merry month of May" 1874, a mini Watergate with innuendoes, recriminations, investigation of records, and denials occurred.

An active temperance society, the Sparkling Spring Lodge of Good Templars, existed in the village for many years. For a long time it had advocated total abstinence of spiritous liquors. A committee appointed to see that liquor dealers did not violate their licenses had accomplished little. Another committee was now appointed to circulate petitions against granting any licenses whatever by the Board of Excise. Although the men of the society frowned on organizing a woman's auxiliary they weren't averse to using the ladies' wiles in persuading reluctant signers. Soon over 2100 signatures were obtained. Whitehall's population at that time was about 4300.

A committee of both sexes presented the petition to the Board of Excise on 6 May. The board was composed of A. H. Tanner, W. F. Bascom, and R. Chapin. The members of the committee were well known business men with one clergyman: Mrs. Joseph Potter, Mrs. Henry Griswold, Mrs. John Cull, Mr. and Mrs. James Adams, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Broughton, Mrs. S. T. Cook, Miss Hattie Parke, J. H. Parke, N. H. Parke, J. F. Clark, T. S. McLachlin, D. B. Nye, S. C. Bull, J. H. Rodd, and Rev. T. W. Harwood.

When the petition was presented, part of the law was quoted: "The Board of Excise may grant licenses to persons of good moral character when in their decisions it shall be deemed necessary for the public good."

The board replied that "Whatever was done would be for the best interests of the entire people." Greatly to the surprise of almost everyone the board voted to grant no licenses that year. The Pros were jubilant; the Cons were aghast. Some licenses had run out the day before; others would expire 9 June. The proprietors of the hotels said they couldn't carry on their businesses without a license. But all the ones affected obediently closed their bars.

Then started a small Watergate like procedure, people gathered on street corners to give freely of their conjectures which some immediately repeated as facts. Some had access to the records of the Express Company and interpreted all kegs of materials going to homes as being kegs of ale. Men were accused and leaped to their own defense in print. H. D. W. C. Hill, a temperance man, was accused of having three kegs of ale in his cellar. He replied "The charge is not only untrue but also literally false." He said his wife was under doctor's orders to take medicinal ale and the keg was the smallest he could buy for his wife's prescription and that one keg contained two and one half dozen eggs. He had never patronized any bar, never drank either from a bottle or a glass behind the door or in public.

1. S. McLacklin was accused of having a half barrel in his cellar. He replied "I haven't any ale in my cellar; neither have I bought any ale; neither do I drink any ale."

The alleged ale keg was ten gallons of Slate Roofing paint, "a sure preservative against leaks in an old tin or shingle roof." James Adams, Jr., said he had not used any wine for the past 16 years.

The Board of Excise was accused of allowing pressure to be brought to bear on them. Many wished they hadn't signed the petition (a usual procedure for signers of petitions). One advocate said hotels and drug stores should have licenses because "It is better to grant licenses to men of respectability to allow them to sell liquors than it is to allow 'dives' to be run by men and women of low or no moral character at all." The town received \$1800 for licenses last year was the monetary plea.

When the Board of Excise met 9 June the ladies made a plea for the moral rights of the community. The lawyer for the dealers declared the board could only go by the law, not by what is morally right. The board met in secret session and gave licenses to hotels for \$150; to stores for \$100; and beer licenses for \$75. The revenue was \$1775.

The conclusion reached by a spokesman was "This no doubt will meet with the approval of a great majority of our citizens. Our temperance friends now have an opportunity of testing their sincerity in their cause. The license law is very strict and if parties outstrip its bounds an opportunity is offered for prosecution and taking away of licenses."

Another "tempest in a teapot" was thus played out in Whitehall in May, 1874.

The Whitehall Independent **January 20, 1988**

Knights of Columbus **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

The refurbishing of this building today is good news. Its construction goes back to the 1913-1914 time. The new Y.M.C.A. Emergency Hospital was formerly opened 16 January, 1914, although it had been in use for some weeks.

In the afternoon there was an informal reception at the building between 3 and 5, during which time a committee of ladies served lunch, especially the Civic League members, and a pleasing program was given; instrumental selections by the two Burnette boys, a solo by Miss Hyatt, and several readings or recitations by Miss Maud Manville, who was a teacher of elocution.

There were about 360 guests, who were met at the door by the Directors, and each party was shown over the building by Boy Scouts who volunteered for that purpose. There were four patients in the hospital, three, who were able to sit up and seemed to enjoy seeing the people.

In the evening the dedicatory services were held in the Presbyterian Church at 8 PM. R.G. Hays, president of the Board of Directors, presided. It rather followed the order of church services, with scripture, hymns, and prayers. Greetings were given from the Railroad Committee of the State Committee by the local General Secretary, H.N. Smith; from the State Committee by Roeliff B. Smith, State Railroad Secretary. The dedicatory address was by the Reverend George C. Douglass of Saratoga Springs.

The Whitehall Times **October 26, 1972**

Societies - 1908 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

In October, 1908, the list of social and fraternal meetings is Impressive also. How many do you recognize? National Protective Legion, Whitehall Legion No. 664, N.P.L.; Modern Woodmen of America, Whitehall Camp, No. 10.479; Knights of Pythias, Tancred Lodge, No. 303, K. of P.; Whitehall Encampment No. 69; Canton Whitehall, No. 54, P.M. L.O.O.F.; United Spanish War Veterans Herbert L. Tracy Camp, No. 55, U.S.W.V.; Odd Fellows, Whitehall Lodge, No. 5, I.O.O.F.; Independent Order Foresters, Court Whitehall, 4,434, L.O.F.; Royal Neighbors of America Auxiliary; Laborers Protective Union No. 12256, A.F. of L.; Knights of Columbus Council; Phoenix Lodge, No. 96, F.& A.M.; Whitehall Grange No. 922; Knights of the Maccabees, The Whitehall Tent No. 228, K.O. ; T.M.

Note the small organization's number of some of the orders. None can compare, however, with I.O.O.F.'s No. 5.

"Approaching dates in gay Whitehall" was an Interesting lead. Here are some: "Washington County Fair" at the Y.M.C.A. Hall; Maccabees Fair, dancing Friday night, all night, at 50 cents a couple.

Whitehall Grange Ball at Griswold Hall; the Grange dances are always conducted with the utmost propriety, 75 cents per couple, extra lady 15 cents.

Pond's social hops, given every Tuesday and Friday nights at Griswold Hall with an eight piece orchestra.

Supper at Mrs. Frank Walker's under the auspices of W.C.T.U.; supper 15 cents.

There were many more, both organized and group. Of course there was no home diversion of radio and TV then, and people looked for entertainment outside the home.

The Whitehall Independent **February 13, 1985**

More of a Newspaper - 1909 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Whitehall at present has many fraternal organizations. Times change and societies change. How many of these that were popular in 1909 in the column Gavel and Sign, are remembered?

National Protective League, Whitehall Legion No. 669, L.D. Brown, Pres.; Knights of Pythias, Tancred Lodge No. 308, K. of P. Whitehall, Encampment No. 89, David Forbush C.P.; Canton Whitehall No. 54 P.M.I.O.O.F., P.L. King, Captain; United Spanish War Veterans Herbert L. Tracey Camp No. 35 U.S.W.V. at Roth Hall, Broad Street, John J. Kelly, Commander; Odd Fellows Lodge No. 5 I.O.O.F., Noble Grand

Charles Souter, Independent Foresters Court Whitehall 4434 I.O.F., I. O.F. Hall Broad Street, Alex Allore, Chief Ranger; Royal Neighbors of America, Auxiliary to M.W. of A.; A.F. of L. Laborers Protective Union No. 12256 Rush Hall, L.W. Finch, President; K. of C. Council, K. of C. Hall; Masonic Phoenix Lodge No. 98 F.&A.M. Masonic Temple; Whitehall Grange No. 922, J. Cooke, Master.

At this time Whitehall had a larger population. That would account for the number of professional men that advertised. Under Professional Cards were listed two doctors: Dr. Arthur Falkenbury, physician and surgeon with an office at the corner of Saunders and West streets and Dr. C.W. Schwartz, physician and surgeon with residence and office on Canal Street.

Lawyer's were more numerous: J. Sanford Potter, counselor at law in Granville; Otis A. Dennis, attorney at law and practice in Courts of Admiralty, in office over J.H. Sullivan's store (Pippo's); O.F. and R.R. Davis, attorneys at law in the Davis Building on Broad Street; William Sears, attorney at law on Broad Street; A.D. Bartholomew, attorney at law, at 10 North Williams Street opposite present Elks; T.A. Lillie, attorney at law and counselor, in the Griswold Building where also was Frederic R. Spencer, attorney and counselor.

Here is an unusual one: Johnson Detective Agency, with Frank L. Johnson manager in Granville who promised legitimate detective work in any part of the world.

The Whitehall Times January 7, 1988

The Female Benevolent Society of Whitehall Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The poor of Whitehall were a concern of the town from the time of its organization. There was a poor commission from the beginning and indigent people were cared for by persons who were paid to keep them in food, shelter, and clothing. During the time of the ship fever years the problem was acute because of the great number of immigrants who came through the port of Whitehall with no means of support.

The record book from which this report is taken began with the annual meeting of 1850 but it evidently had been in existence for 25 years. The constitution was copied at the beginning of the book. Whether it was the original one or a new one is not stated but its objects and organization were clearly stated. The name for it to be called was the Female Benevolent Society of Whitehall. The object of the Society was to assist the poor children of this vicinity in clothing and instruction for the relief of the sick, distressed, poor, and for other charitable purposes which shall be deemed expedient for the society.

The business of the society was to be conducted by five managers chosen annually whose duty it was to promote the object of the society by obtaining subscriptions and donations, seeing the same conveyed to the place of deposit, to seek out objects of charity and report the same to the Society.

A treasurer was to receive all subscriptions and donations and pay over to her successor on whenever a draft was made by the secretary by order of the managers.

The managers were to meet at least once in three months at such time and place they appointed. Three of their numbers consisted of a quorum. Each subscriber was to pay annually into the treasury whatever clothing and money their liberality suggested. All monies collected were to be appropriated to charitable and religious purposes at the discretion of the society.

The managers were empowered to call special meetings, make by-laws, and fill vacancies occurring during the year. The names of the members of the society in 1854 were listed at 60. There were names of females, married and single and were those connected with the well known families of that time, business and professional.

The meeting of 12 December 1850 was held in the Presbyterian Church. Although the members of the society were females the formal meeting was in the hands of males. Honorable P. H. Boyd was chairman, P. T. Blount, was secretary, Reverend Mr. Agneau gave the prayer, Dr. A. A. Harrington gave the annual report, and Reverend L. Kellogg delivered the address. The managers gave a detailed report for the year which will follow.

The Whitehall Times January 14, 1988

The Female Benevolent Society of Whitehall Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The managers of the Society in 1850 were Mrs. E. Holdridge, Mrs. J. Tierney, Mrs. O.F. Blount, Mrs. M.O. Blinn, and Mrs. L Ferris. At the annual meeting in December 1850 they presented a detailed report which included the names of all clothing, food items, and household supplies with the exact amount of each. They reported that the society had been in existence 28 years and that a present member had served for 11.

Children especially were sought and provided with clothing for school, sometimes with outfits, and books. Follow ups with the teachers showed that these became some of the brightest in the classes. These reports contained profuse thanks to the donors of cash and goods and descriptions of the destitute people. They were religious in tone seeming almost sermonic like.

Mr. Halden copied the records of the Female Benevolent Society for sixteen years of its life of service. One wonders where these records are and when and why the society disbanded.

The Whitehall Times
May 12, 1988

Whitehall Chronicle – 1850 - The Female Benevolent Society
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Ladies of the Benevolent Society held its first Festival of the year 1856 on 17 January in Chippawa Hall (Music Hall). They made \$175 on a display of confectionery made by themselves, a tobacco display of Dahn and Toben, and home manufactures fancy work.

The Whitehall Times
November 2, 1973

The Female Benevolent Society – November 1873
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Y.M.C.A. appealed to the public to give help in caring for, the poor of the village, especially to the ladies as the Ladies Benevolent society, active for so long, had been abandoned and its work turned over to the Y.M.C.A.

Twentysixth. At the meeting of 21 November the ladies did attend and were elected Associate Members (Nice of the men since the women were to do the work). They reactivated the Ladies Benevolent society and began to devise means of obtaining supplies for the needy, as there would doubtless be a great many during the winter of the panic.

Thanksgiving Day. Rev. John Lowery preached in the Baptist Church in the morning. All congregations attended. Following the service the Benevolent Society laid more plans.

Nineteenth. Hiram Green, Esq., the columnist of the time wrote: "The panic has come down onto Skenesboro and brought her trunk to make a long visit. Everything in the way of money is as tight as a new pair of wedding boots."

The Whitehall Times
July 28, 1988

Whitehall Chronicle in 1874
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

One of the organizations in the village was called the Hawthorne Club. This was organized by the wife of the Reverend Hall in October 1874. It was composed of the wives of the prominent business and professional men. They obtained the name from a

celebrated author of that time. Their purpose was literary interest. Every two weeks on Wednesdays they met at a member's home ready to discuss an author's work with a biographical sketch, all prepared in advance. After the discussion and criticism they had a luncheon, as this was a morning session.

The Whitehall Times
January 1, 1876

January 1876
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Business interests here would be greatly benefited by establishing a board of trade. We are at present (January, 1876) viewing the departure of several of the most important business interests. A meeting of businessmen was called for 2 February in the village hall to take the matter into consideration. Let there be a large attendance, as we, as citizens interested in the welfare, of our place, must unite to review trade.

The Whitehall Times
February 5, 1876

February 1876
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Board of Trade of the Village of Whitehall was organized 2 February 1876. Pursuant to a call that had gone out to interested people, the meeting was composed of business men interested in the lumber, forwarding, and manufacturing interests of the place. The chairman chosen was William H. Cooke and Secretary, W. A. Wilkins, both men with an interest in lumber.

Speakers presented the objects of the proposed association: To induce capitalists wishing to engage in the manufacturing business to establish themselves at Whitehall to take advantage of the capital in the, Whitehall banks; to take the transportation rate in hand; to overcome the discrimination of the New England markets against Whitehall; to be represented by a committee to consult with the D&H that as yet had no proper line connection; to encourage building up lumber and forwarding interests in Whitehall. (Whitehall had been informed it was simply a little interior town) to induce the D&H to locate their large machine shops here.

Advantages of Whitehall were brought, out. The canal could be enlarged and supplied with water of the Granville (Mettowee) and Wood creeks. Whitehall possessed the power of Wood Creek capable of furnishing 150-250 horsepower allowed to run to waste. Railroad lines to Granville could be built.

A committee was appointed to meet the next evening and the Board of Trade was on its way.

On 14 February the constitution was read to the meeting. The name of the organization was to be the Board of Trade of the Village of Whitehall. Its purpose was to develop the commercial, manufacturing, and general business interests of the village. Its officers should be a president, a vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer.

No debt should be incurred by the Board of Trade or by any individual member on its account. The constitution was then presented to the Village Trustees.

The Whitehall Times
May 27, 1976

May 1876
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Board of Trade was investigating the possibility of a firm from St. John erecting a pottery in Whitehall, the sand from East Bay and the Whitehall clay to be used in the process along with Dresden feldspar. A second investigation was the possibility of locating the D&H Canal company shops here.

The Whitehall Times
March 30, 1978

The Whitehall Temperance Club - 1876
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

During the year 1876 a great revival movement swept Whitehall. All the churches held meetings and reported the many people who reformed as a result of the movement. This was true in neighboring communities. Speakers were imported to add to the work of the local clergy.

The first mention of a temperance club was in a March, 1876, newspaper when the Ungraded School Boys placed a note of thanks for a supper given them and the articles supplied for their school room in the Vaughn building. They added that they had organized a temperance club and signed the pledge. They expressed the hope that every man and boy would sign the pledge they had ready to circulate.

What causes a temperance society to be organized? Was it a result of the revivals or a social condition in the village or the desire of the village members to help their fellow men? Usually women are credited with such societies and fun is still directed to their efforts. But this organization was started by the influential men of Whitehall.

On 30 April 1877, 22 persons gathered in the village hall and perfected an organization called the Whitehall Temperance Club. A previous meeting had directed that a constitution be drawn up. E. Butler, who presided at both these meetings submitted this constitution and all persons present signed it and signed the pledge. The group decided there should be a president, six vice presidents, a secretary, a treasurer, and six

members of an executive committee. Since the election of officers was to occur at the second Tuesday in May, nominations were made at this meeting. Two nominations for president, 18 for vice president, 3 for treasurer, and 12 for executive committee members were made. Some of the names were submitted for all the offices. Much interest was evidenced in the work of the organization. Meetings were to be held in the place of J. H. H. Parke at the corner of Broad and Clinton Avenue.

Mr. Wilkins of The Whitehall Times commented on the society in a news item and on his editorial page. He believed this temperance society in its "worthy and Christian work of reclaiming men who are victims of their worst passions" should have the cooperation of all of the citizens of Whitehall. Then he referred to work previously done by the Rev. J. J. McDonnell who had worked with such people during his stay in Whitehall and had reclaimed many victims into good and honorable citizens. On 8 May the first regular meeting was held at the office of Anson Parks. Professor Butler again presided and L. H. Filmore was secretary pro tempore. Four members were appointed to represent the club at the excise board. Paul Wells wanted the names of the people taking the pledge to be published in the newspaper. Others objected. Justin Smith addressed the body "eloquently and effectively" and he and Paul Wells were chosen to be speakers for the next meeting.

Election of officers took place. Members paid their dues of 25 cents a year. As \$10 in dues was reported the organization evidently began with 40 members. The constitution provided that females could be member; for dues of 10 cents; for \$5 one could be an honorary member and for \$10 one could be a life member.

The pledge read: I, the undersigned, do hereby pledge my word and honor, God helping me, that I will not buy, sell or use as a beverage any intoxication drink, and that I will by all honorable means, encourage others to abstain from their traffic and use.

The constitution was read. The purposes of Article 11 were stated to render assistance to persons who are endeavoring to abandon the use of alcoholic drinks and to prevent others from acquiring the habit of intemperance. The executive committee was to take charge of the business affairs of the organization.

Thanks were given to Anson Parks for the use of his hall and this first regular meeting adjourned. The members of this organization were the influential members of Whitehall in its school, political and business affairs.

The Whitehall Times

April 6, 1978

The Whitehall Temperance Club - 1877

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The founders of Whitehall's Temperance Society in 1877 were outstanding in the community. Taking the first slate of officers elected with their positions in the village will show they were not of one particular section of citizens. President O. F. Davis was a lawyer with an office on Broad Street. He had interests in the lumber industry.

There were six vice presidents. Robert C. Cook was in the lumber industry with his father. C.W. Adams was an outstanding photographer. Robert Doig was another lawyer of long standing in the community. Lucius Rodd was a carpenter. Ami D. Gibbs kept a grocery store on Canal Street. W. H. Murray dealt in groceries and provisions on Broad Street.

The secretary was William W. Cook who had a planing and wholesale lumber company entitled W. W. Cook and Sons. He was at one time president of the Whitehall Academy on Williams Street. The treasurer was Horatio Parker, Whitehall's postmaster at that time.

There were six members of the executive committee. L. M. Miller had a harness shop on Clinton Avenue. E. Butler was the Whitehall school superintendent. J. F. Clark had a store at Broad and High streets from which he sold tea, flour, wool and groceries. James Adams, Jr., may have been in the business of boat building. T. S. McLachlin was in the Dayton Block selling carpets, hardware and house furnishing goods. G. H. Murray so far hasn't turned up in the records.

Among other charter members were doctors, manufacturers, farmers and land developers. At the first meetings pledges were circulated and with those signed during the week were recorded in the register. One member tried unsuccessfully to have all the names placed in the weekly papers.

The programs were "remarks" made by the members themselves, including those of the local clergy. Soon outside speakers came in, for the temperance movement was countywide.

At one meeting the members were "appreciative" of an address from the famous Charles E. Hughes from New York. With great indignation at the next meeting this person was denounced as an imposter. There was no television that could have prevented this deception.

As a sign of membership, the members resolved to wear a badge. This took the form of a piece of red ribbon six inches long and one and a half inches wide.

W. W. Wilkins of The Whitehall Times supported the movement in his column with editorials and comments. One such was "Great interest is being manifested in the cause and the members of the club have good reason to congratulate themselves on the good work which they are prosecuting." And again, "The work in itself is the work of humanity and in its efforts to reclaim fallen men, the club should have the support and encouragement of every good citizen in its laudable work."

In their zeal the society requested a full column in the weekly newspaper in which to present their activities. Mr. Wilkins did not approve of giving up this space but did promise to report their weekly meetings.

The pattern of the programs remained the same for some time. But other activities grew and these efforts can be reported at another time as the society lasted quite a while.

The Whitehall Times
March 23, 1978

March 1878
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

On St. Patrick's Day a parade was led by St. Patrick's T.B.A. Society. The line of march is different; perhaps because the parade was smaller. It started in the block south of Saunders Street at the society's rooms. From there it went up Canal to Second Avenue (present Main and Broadway). The railroad fence was not there; countermarched down Canal; (Broadway to Main) to Broad Street and across the lower bridge to Williams Street; up Williams Street to Poultney; Poultney to Potter Street to Wheeler Avenue; up Wheeler Avenue to Mountain Street; along Mountain to New (this must have been the present American Alley, as that street was there, but not named) ; down New to Williams Street; across the middle bridge to Canal Street (Main) to Division up Division Street to Church Street (Broadway); up Church Street to High Street (which at this time was from Main Street to West Street); along, High Street to West Street; down West to Saunders Street; down Saunders Street to Canal Street, and south on that Street to their, rooms.

The Whitehall Times
May 4, 1978

Clubs (Year Unknown kb)
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The new Ironclad Temperance society was organized. Members agreed to abstain from all alcoholic beverages and tobacco. The badge adopted was made of bright blue and garnet ribbon. Members made an oath. At the end of three months they would report as to whether they had kept the pledge. Everyone who did not would forfeit \$5 which would be pro-rated among the other members.

The Whitehall Times
February 1, 1979

January 1879 in Whitehall
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

North Star lodge, No. 68, Knights of Pythias, held its meeting in Castle Hall. This organization was in existence in the 1930's along with a ladies auxiliary, does anyone know where its records are? The hall was in Chase's block from where the furnishings were sold a

while ago. Men connected with the organization in 1879 were Peter Hattenbeck, Henry Waters George Prefontaine, James Adams and Horace Stowell.

The Whitehall Times
October 25, 1975

Independent Order of Foresters, October 1879
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

There was a movement to organize a new council of Independent Order of Foresters in the village by William W. Newth, superintendent of the gas works. He was appointed by D.D.N.C. of Washington County at the State High Council meeting in Troy in September. As soon as a sufficient number of members are secured, a charter will be applied for. Hall's Opera House has been engaged for a few public lectures by D. O. F. Cobb, a member of Court Charter Oak, 8, of Albany County.

"This society has paid over \$225,000 to widows and orphans of deceased brothers in five years. The assessment is only 10 cents for every death. Over 400 courts and 13,000 members are located in the United States and Canada."

The Whitehall Times
March 13, 1980

Taconic & La Favorite Clubs, 1880
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Taconic association gave a dictionary party, each member dressing appropriately and acting out the meaning of a word.

The La Favorite club members entertained with; charades and shadow pantomimes.

The Whitehall Times
September 18, 1980

Whitehall Canoe Club, September 1880
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Whitehall Canoe club was organized with nine members and eight canoes. The officers were Henry J. Earl, commodore; J. Fred Warner, vice-commodore; E. A. Greenough, secretary and treasurer. The boys had made excellent time thus far, Mr. Greenough having come in second best at the Lake George tournament.

The Whitehall Times
January 1, 1981

Taconic & La Favorite Clubs, 1881
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The members of the Taconic Club observed New Years by making calls (a common practice not too long ago). The barouche consisted of a crockery crate, beautifully inlaid with rye straw and frescoed with evergreens. This regal coach rested upon, a pair of runners of an ancient and unique pattern. The whole gay equipage was drawn by a pair of equine steeds of the a la canaille epoch and as the party passed through the streets they attracted as much attention as the establishment of the Good Noah did when it started upon its remarkable voyage in search of Mount Ararat. The La Favorite club gave a Leap Year party. The gentlemen were invited until 12 o'clock the ladies had charge of the floor asking the gentlemen to dance.

But at 12, then the old year "stepped out with a leap" the gentlemen assumed, the management.

The Whitehall Times
June 3, 1982

Washington County Veterans Reunion, August 30, 1882
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Besides honoring the deceased veterans of the Wars of 1812 and the Civil War on Memorial Day in 1882, the citizens of Whitehall extended an invitation to the Washington Veterans association to hold its annual reunion in Whitehall.

On 31 May Capt. Luke H. Carrington, Lt. William Sinnott and Sgt. Murphy attended the meeting of this association at Sandy Hill (Hudson Falls) to give this invitation. Representatives of eight of the county's towns were present. Newly elected president General T.J. Strong accepted the invitation for 30 August in Whitehall. William Sinnott then nominated W.D.W.C. Hill as marshal for the occasion and he was duly elected.

The Whitehall Times announced this event and declared that the citizens of Whitehall would make every exertion to receive the veterans of the county with their usual hospitalities. Already Captain Carrington had been assured by General Slocum of Burlington two years before that he would come to New York and deliver the address whenever the reunion was in Whitehall. Luke H. Carrington served in the 123d Regiment Company in the Civil War.

A committee of Mr. Hill, Carrington, Sinnott and Casey invited the citizens of Whitehall to meet at the village hall to discuss the entertainment of the veterans 16 June. At that time a great number met and chose as their officers Honorable H. G. Burleigh, president; Dr. Henry Root, secretary; T.S. Patterson and John C. Earl, corresponding secretaries. Then they named business men and gave them "every power to act in every

particular to make the occasion successful." Village business men James Doren, W. H. Cooke, S. K. Griswold, E. E. Bascom, W. B. Eddy, W. S. Stufflebeam, H. R. Synder, R. H. Cook, A. P. Cooke, James Spenser, F. A. Hotchkiss; lawyers J. B. Potter, T. A. Lillie, O. F. Davis; Editors W. A. Wilkins, W. H. Tefft; druggists Lawrence Corbett, O. A. Manville; and from the farms, S. Hollister, J. J. Pangman, George Kingsley and W. J. Wood. Hon. Burleigh considered a person who "never found any such verb as "to fail," declared the affair would be as good as the splendid reunion that Salem had.

At future meetings discussions concerned music, orations, supplies, refreshments, "Any veteran who came would not be allowed to remain hungry." On August 16 even the railroad timetable would be announced. Corps from outside the County was invited, especially from Troy and Schuylerville and other towns notified that they did not need a special invitation. Captain Carrington was drilling the veterans of the village twice a week and found that they were in good spirits and had not forgotten their old way of handling guns.

The event of 30 August will be described next.

The Whitehall Times **June 10, 1982**

Washington County Veterans Reunion, August 30, 1882 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

How would 10,000 people be handled in Whitehall? Those of us around in 1959 know how it was done for Whitehall's Bicentennial. This was how it was done in 1882.

Arrivals: General Slocum, Aug. 29, at the Opera House hotel on Williams street; special trains from Eagle Bridge via Castleton with veterans and others from Fort Edward with a large delegation from the south; from Port Henry with a large group. In all 23 (rail) cars brought about 2,500 people.

Parade Units: Greenwich; Hartford with drum corps; Argyle with band; Fort Ann with drum corps; Sandy Hill (Hudson Falls) with drum corps; Fort Edward with band; Fair Haven, Vt., Post Bosworth with drum corps; Ticonderoga Post Weed; Poultney, Vt., Post Joyce; Salem with band; Cambridge with band; un-uniformed soldiers formed into a company under Lieutenant Colonel Root.

Procession: Colonel Russell, marshal and aides; Austin band; Burleigh Corps; General Strong and officers of the Veterans association: Hon. H. G. Burleigh, president of the citizens committee; General Rogers and disabled soldiers in carriages; Rev. John Lowrey, chaplain, reception committee and the press in carriages; Post of J. H. Bosworth, Fair Haven, under J.W. Parkhurst; Post Weed of Ticonderoga under McMorehouse; Hartford veterans with Capt. J. B. Carrigan; Sandy Hill veterans with Capt. John Dwyer; Greenwich veterans with Capt. George S. Orr; Fort Ann veterans with Capt. A. A. Budd; Granville veterans with Capt. A. C. Polk; Salem veterans with Capt. W. J. Cruikshank; Whitehall veterans with Capt. L. H. Carrington; Fort Edward veterans with Capt. George Scott; Lieut. Col. Root with veterans un-uniformed; section of Steanburgh's Battery of Troy.

Line of March: From reunion grounds (probably Adams field) at 10:30, down Sixth Street (Maple) to Canal Street (Broadway) to lower bridge; to Williams Street up to Covered Bridge (New Road); to Canal and to Sixth Street to reunion grounds.

Dinner: Tables beneath tent of the late Paul's and Austen's Circus; plates laid for 500 persons at one time, serving by the ladies of the community with everything substantial and good and plenty of it. 3,000 were fed in this manner.

Hon. H. G. Burleigh's open house: Dinner at his home for orators of the day, officers of the day, distinguished guests and members of the press. Fifty were served here.

Exercises: Review at the grandstand with Generals Slocum, Strong and Rogers reviewing the men formed in three lines marching by the stand, stacking arms, and listening to the addresses; prayer by Capt. Gordon, Whitehall Glee Club, "The Camp Fire Burns;" H.G. Burleigh's address of welcome; Gen. J.T. Strong, president of the Washington County Veterans association (very short); Gen. H.W. Slocum of Brooklyn's reminiscent census of the Civil War; Gen. Charles Hughes of Sandy Hill with a tribute to Gen. McQuade of Utica; Chaplain Gordon of Coila on veterans' reunions and pensions; Rev. N. Lockwood's eulogy to Whitehall's late Colonel Tanner; Rev. J. E. Hill's benediction.

Decorations: Flags were everywhere; Sixth Street, Canal and Williams Streets covered with red, white and blue; arch opposite Times office in flatiron building; Hank Waters' market; P. W. Barry's drug store; Fred Gallord's gift store; Grand Union Hotel; H. R. Wait's store; Burleigh Corps armory; Opera House Hotel, and many others were elaborately trimmed with bunting.

Grand Ball in the evening at Opera House. Papers the following week gave many items on the reunion. Editor Wilkins had put out on 30 August the Whitehall Times in blue ink and presented a copy to each veteran; he wore a red, white and blue outfit. Horse hitching arrangements were adequate in an adjoining field to the stand. Burleigh Corps were arrayed in helmet hats, red coats and white pants. H. D. C. Hall, had been chosen marshal but was ill and watched the parade from his house at which he was serenaded. The list of workers was long and detailed. Credit was given to everyone who had made the reunion the talk of the county, Whitehall, then, as well as now, was noted for its hospitality.

The Whitehall Times August 18, 1883

Whitehall Canoe Club, August 1883 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Races seem to have been a frequent form of entertainment in the 1880's in Whitehall. There were horse races, bicycle races, foot races, walking races, and now a canoe race on 4 August 1883.

The Whitehall Canoe Club performed on Wood Creek from Boardman Street Bridge to Saunders Street Bridge at 6:30 p.m. This was before the canal was set over into

Wood Creek. The canoes were manned by Frank and Will Cooke, Otis Dennis, Edward Bascom, Samuel Moore, Edward Newcomb, Ernest and Gordon Greenough and Lenny Gordon was substituting for Commodore R. E. Bascom.

The bank of the creek and Saunders Street Bridge was lined with several hundred spectators to watch the review of the little crafts as they glided over the water. After the review came the paddling race. The judges were Editor Tefft, M.J. Brown and W.B. Inglee. When the canoeists were given the word "Go", the paddlers dipped the water and shot the canoes away at a lively clip. The favorite before the start was Ed Bascom and the Cooke boys but as Ed had been ill did not at first intend to enter the race at all; he followed along and came on third. Young Gordon was not a member of the club and would have been barred from competing had there been a prize at stake, but he came in half a length ahead of Will Cooke. The order on which the members came in was: Gordon Greenough, Will Cook, Edward Bascom, Ernest Greenough, Frank Cooke, Otis Dennis, Henry Earl, and Samuel Morse.

This race was followed by the dump race. Three entries for this started from above and paddled to the designated point where at a signal from a horn, the three canoes were dumped over, the men going under them. Frank Cooke was ahead, Ernest Greenough next and Will Cooke last. The latter as he went over, lost his paddle and caused delay. The other men came up in good style and went on to the end.

Frank Cooke then gave some great exhibitions of skill in handling the cockpit of his canoe. He rolled over in the water without leaving the cockpit of his canoe and righted every time. This was witnessed by the crowd who were delighted with the exhibition and went away, all wishing for a repetition.

The Whitehall Times
March 17, 1883

St. John Baptist Society, February 1883
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The 5 February ball of St. John Baptist Society at Griswold Hall had a large attendance. The Society opened a supper room in the house back of the hall and many partook of the hospitality. The attendance was the largest of any held in the hall to be entertained, by Prcor's Band.

The Whitehall Independent
March 21, 1984

Layyah Missionary - February 1884
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Layyah Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church, composed entirely of children, was formed to educate a Siamese child. An entertainment was planned around selections from Mother Goose with melodies and appropriate costumes. With the entertainment were a fair and a festival at which fancy articles were sold and a supper served - all at Griswold Hall. Admission was ten cents. The grand procession was at 7:30 p.m.

Having learned about Whitehallers as grown-ups and seen their adult pictures, it is a bit of a twist to imagining them as children in Mother Goose costumes: as Morgan Griswold, Little Boy Blue; Fred Doren, a Fiddler Three; John Clark, Tommy Snooks; Lillie Potter, Miss Muffet; Alena Manville, Maid of Honor; Charley Travis, Bun Man; Boyce Potter, Simple Simon; Melvin Barker, Shearer.

The side shows cost ten cents, also, to hear nursery rhymes and songs and watch tableaux. The Affair lasted two nights and netted \$115, a good sum for the "cause."

The Whitehall Times
August 15, 1985

Railroad Y.M.C.A. - 1885
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Railroad Y.M.C.A. organized in the first week of July. It was organized in the Burleigh Building opposite Queen Street on Canal Street began with \$900 in its civil government and two subjects in methods of teaching. The certificate granted treasury. The D & H Company gave \$365 per year for its support. There were many such organizations over the country which had already produced good results. The officers elected were President William B. Eddy; vice president C. A. Hamphrey; Secretary J. A. Connery; Treasurer W. W. May. The nature of the organization can be seen in its appointed committees: finance, devotion, visitation, entertainment, room and library, special on fitting up rooms. A secretary and treasurer on salary were hired from Roanoke, Virginia.

The Whitehall Times
September 4, 1986

Christian Endeavor Society - 1886
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The ecumenical Christian Endeavor Society was formed in Whitehall on 3 October. Members from four churches, Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist and Episcopal numbered 150. James Parke was president; John Doren, vice president; and Annie Wilkins, secretary-treasurer.

The Whitehall Times
January 29, 1987

Ladies Aid Society of Whitehall - 1887
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A Novelty in Money Making

The progressive Ladies Aid Society of Whitehall advertised a novel way to make money. They organized a competition on word building - a list of English words using the letters from WORD MAKING COMPETITION. Each contestant would pay fifty cents entrance fee. This would be divided: one-half in deposit for the Ladies Aid Society; one-half deposited in a fund to be distributed to the five persons sending in a list of correctly spelled English words by 19 March at noon. The list was to be in ink and in alphabetical order. There were strict rules as to which words could be used to qualify. We'll look for the winners in the March papers.

The Whitehall Times
February 5, 1987

Whitehall in 1887
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Sparkling Lodge of I.O.G.T. had a very successful year. The membership of 100, composed mainly of young men, had a good financial position and had fine programs for the public. The first temperance agitation began in Whitehall in 1830. The first one to sign a temperance pledge was Walter Wright, fifth son of Enoch who was a pioneer in northeast Whitehall.

A seemingly appropriate title was taken by the ladies of the community when they chose the Chang Band. Its first object was to educate a Siamese scholar for missionary

work. They supplied a certain sum of money annually for the student and sent other worthy objects, one being a box of wearing apparel to the Bethany Mission in Oregon.

The Whitehall Times
February 12, 1887

Whitehall in 1887
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

On 9 March the Fish and Game Protective Society reported at its annual meeting they had destroyed 30 fish nets in the lake and were following up the work in lake this year.

The Whitehall Times
June 22, 1887

Whitehall in 1887
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Whitehall Lodge IOOF No. 5 (*International Order of Odd Fellows kb*) sent an elegant chair to the new Macdonough Lodge at Plattsburgh. The chair was of polished black walnut upholstered with crimson plush with a tall carved back designed for use of the Noble Grand.

The Grand Templar Lodge of Whitehall on 6 January took its play "Ten Nights in a Barroom" to Comstock. People from Whitehall took the 4:30 p.m. train and returned in the sleeper for 35 cents round trip. After the play there was a dance. W. B. Inglee of the Whitehall Chronicle arranged the trip.

January was the month for election of officers in the various organizations. This year election took place for Vannier Hose Company, IOOF No. 5, State Fish and Game Protective Association, St. John Baptist Society, Doren Hose Company, Whitehall Steamer No. 3, Manville Hose Company, Burleigh Hose Company, Merchants National Bank, Old National Bank, Baptist Church and others at a later date.

The Whitehall Times
February 17, 1983

Terrytown Social Club - 1895
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A Masquerade Ball

Masquerade balls were held long before the celebrated ones in the time of Marie Antoinette. Seldom do we hear of them now except in the moving pictures or when an account of one occurs in an old Whitehall Chronicle as in this report in 1895.

The Terrytown Social Club was composed of a group of young men in the section of Whitehall still called by that name. It is in the southwest part of the village that is in the area of New Arlington Hotel which at one time was termed The Terry Hotel.

Accustomed to making their own amusements, the boys held their second grand annual masquerade on 12 October 1895 in Griswold Hall located in Griswold's Iron Front — in the process of being revitalized now. The club members must have been a ritualistic organization for they used its terms on their dance programs to the mystification of the attendants.

A well known Troy costumer, Mrs. Kallenberg, arrived at the Commercial Hotel, located north of High Street that was the former Dayton Block. From her collection of masks and garbs, from noon until night she outfitted a third of the hundred costumers who attended the ball.

The newspaper in a long account was graphically written with words not ordinarily used in today's reporting. Amusement and admiration of the general mass of spectators greeted the participants. A shabby gentleman would saunter up to a princely garbed one whereupon a heroic encounter or a loving embrace would follow. Many particular characters in history were faithfully depicted.

The Grand March was led by a clown, James Dunn, and an old washerwoman, G.A. Griswold. Over 40 couples were on the floor in the march but a hundred danced afterwards. Those who did not dress in costumes wore pretty dresses or plain suits with masks. It took two hours for those in disguise to become known. Charles Barker, the Devil, was a fiend on the floor Albert Cook was a frog Jennie Stroup made a frisky topsey who could cross a river on ice cubes; George Nichols and Andrew Stanley were rustics.

The orchestra was described as performing satisfactorily, its music giving just the necessary impetus to the pedal extremities of the dancers.

Mrs. Dale, the wife of the first Silk Mill owner, was responsible for the good things included in the dinner, or rather supper, as it was usually called at such an affair. Oddly enough the menu was not given.

The article continued with the names and costumes of a Whitehall Who's Who of that day: James King, Mattie Martin, E. W. Barker, Guy Cowen, Frank and Fred Jalet, John Edmonds, Hermione Douglass, Grace Corbett, Elisha Manville, May Combs, Emma Douglas — school teachers, pharmacists, architects, undertakers, belles of the town, gay blades — all who were out for a pleasant evening.

The Whitehall Independent
July 11, 1984

Terrytown Social Club - 1897
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In an earlier issue was an account of the antics of the Terrytown Social Club, an organization of very wide awake young gentlemen of the village at the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Barker. After it appeared, Mrs. Helen King called to report a like occurrence that happened at the wedding of Joseph P. King and Molly Green. Recently in a scrapbook I found that account.

On 6 October 1897 two popular young people were married at Our Lady of Angels (*Church kb*). Joseph was one of the leading spirits of the club, a rule of which there could be no married members. On that day at 8 p.m. the couple arrived at the church to be met by eight members of the club who escorted them inside in procession. After the ceremonies, these members formed two lines through which the couple passed. The church bell struck one, the signal for the firing of the large cannon nearby in the Brett lot. This boomed at intervals all evening and shook the village.

After the wedding supper, a great fantastic carriage rolled up to the door on West Street, a very large affair looking like a hay wagon, decorated with gay bunting and lit with the glare of many burning torches and noisy with the clanging of cow bells. The couple was seated on a pedestal in the center like a king and queen, with their attendants Harriet Holcomb and William King and the club members. Amid Roman candles and Greek fire and all the noise, they were driven to the station. There fifty pounds of rice were opened and scattered over the nearby area.

On the train all eight members passed out handbills to the passengers announcing the wedding and the passengers were forced to go to the couple to congratulate, except one woman. The couple was marched to her for her congratulations. Mottoes were posted in all the coaches. At Fort Edward a final display of fireworks took place.

Joseph and Molly were the fourth wedding in the club to be married. The others up to that time were John Tierney, Herbert Smally, and George Nichols. Mr. and Mrs. Barker were married the next year.

The Whitehall Independent
January 8, 1983

Terrytown Social Club - 1898
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Many social, religious, fire, and political societies existed at one time or another in Whitehall; but many are only vaguely remembered or not recalled at all. Such a one was the Terrytown Social Club.

Terrytown was a section of the village somewhere between Sixth Avenue (Maple Street) and First Avenue. Some years before 1898 there was a social group known as the Terrytown Social Club. Young men of great imagination and ingenuity belonged to it. They were active with social affairs but only single men could be members. If one married, he roused the ire of the remainder and woeful circumstances surrounded the backslider on his physical being. After punishment he was not molested again but was excommunicated from the club.

In July 1898 one Charles T. Barker took to wife one May I. Combs, a Whitehall teacher. The wedding was supposed to be private for the family only, but eight Terrytowners learned of it and "crashed" the reception. The wedding party sent out for ice cream for the guests. Pretending concern over an imagined injury of the groom's hand, one of them slipped a handcuff on the wrist when he extended it for inspection. Thus shackled to the member, the luckless groom was led out to where two carriages waited and he was spirited off to Fort Ann. There from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. he went through a series of pranks which was ended by his formal excommunication from the club. He was then returned to the bride waiting in Whitehall.

True to their word the groom was not molested again but he vowed vengeance on the next one of the club who entered the state of matrimony! The club members added many wedding presents on the couple's collection.

Wouldn't those of us who knew Mrs. Barker have loved to hear her rendition of this event? She did give a description of the Central Building school rooms of the early days, as she taught in the system for many years. She was the first president of the Whitehall Teachers Association when it was formed in the 1930's.

The Whitehall Independent August 8, 1984

Theta Delta Club Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A Wedding in the "Old Times"

Home weddings were different from the usual stylized church ones. This was the case when Florence S. Dale of Poultney Street was married to Edward Clark of Poultney. Florence was the daughter of Frederick S. Dale who brought the silk industry to Whitehall. She had lived in Meyers Castle on West Hill when her father operated the silk mill and was used to ostentation.

Like the Terrytown boys and their social club, the young ladies of the community formed such a club called the Theta Delta Club. Unlike the "Boys", however, their aim was to assist the first member to "embark on the sea of matrimony with every aid in their power."

Miss Dale was the first to marry. It followed that the group attended the bride on the eve of her wedding and for several days before in decorating the large parlors of her parents with festoons of evergreen, palms, potted plants, ferns and flowers.

At the end of the south parlor they erected an enclosure to be used for the ceremony. At the top was placed a large white bell of white flowers and on the back a ground of evergreens with the initials "D. C." also in white flowers. A white cord and tassel marked the entrance. From the gas fixtures in the center of the room to its corners were ropes of evergreen, as well as along the stair railing. Plants and flowers around the room added to the festive look.

A different musical during the ceremony was the singing of the entire musical score of the "Bridal Chorus" from Wagner's "Lohengrin". This was followed by the music of the Episcopal Church boys' choir under the direction of L. D. Tefft and Herman Sullivan the accompanist. The era in which this wedding took place can be recognized by the names of the boys in the choir: Harry Dalton, Kenneth Newcomb, Timothy Inglee, Buell Ames, William Kelly, and David Inglee.

Fifty guests attended the wedding. The bridesmaids were four in number besides the maid of honor: Clara Bascom, Alena Manville, Katherine Burdett and Libbie Carr. The maid of honor was Lulu Dale. The bride carried a large bouquet of white roses which was made up of five separate bouquets containing emblems that were to show the fortunes of the bridesmaids. (Were all married next?) Master Dalton then sang DeKoven's "O! Promise Me" and after congratulations a well prepared and well served collation was served in the dining room decorated with white and gold ribbons and flowers.

Usually the account of a wedding ended with a long list of the wedding gifts to the couple with the names of the donors. They were omitted in this account or perhaps the scrapbook maker ran out of space or time.

The Whitehall Times **August 29, 1985**

Modern Woodsmen of America - 1904 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

The Woodmen's Banquet

Old issues of Whitehall newspapers give accounts of fraternal organizations not now in existence. Their activities seem many and varied. What happened to all their records and who can reminisce stores heard about them?

One social occasion of an organization was a banquet of the Modern Woodmen of America, Whitehall Camp No. 10,479 at the Commercial Hotel on 23 August 1904. This society was not mentioned in the Whitehall Directory of 1892-1893 but was active in 1904. In June of that year nine members of the Foresters team challenged nine other members to a contest in securing new members. The losing side was to furnish a dinner for the winners together with their wives and lady friends.

The Foresters held their dinner in the large dining room of the Commercial Hotel under the management of Landlord Roth and his daughter Ruth, Mrs. Dennis Bebo Jr. The toastmaster was Escort George Douglass who called on various members to speak. Two talked at great length on the advantages of being a Woodsman, venerable Counsel

D.A. Rodd and Chief Forester L.D. Prouty. Some of the ladies spoke on the "Nice fat" insurance policy of the order. The banquet and speaking lasted until one o'clock for the forty persons who attended.

The menu? If the dishes of a modern buffet were listed would it list be the equal of this? Appetizers - Queen olives, celery, oyster cocktails, canapés caviar, soup-Bouillon de Pjoulé, and salad lobster, cucumbers and tomatoes with croquettes de Fantasia; main course of cold beef, tongue, and ham with vegetables and chicken salad; dessert, sherbet, cake, cheese, fruits, Saratoga Water, cigars.

The Degree Team was composed of L. D. Prouty Chief Forester; E. Rodd assistant; H. Perry secretary; F.A. Foote, treasurer; Foresters F. Perry, E. Bartholomew, P. O. Fish, Jr.; James Clark, L. Phillips, Joseph Jemery.

An announcement in the same 26 August 1909 Chronicle told of a visit of the National and State Woodmen to be held the following Monday, 29 August, at the Music Hall. The general public was invited to hear National Director E. E. Morphy of Leavenworth, Kansas; R. R. Smith of Brookfiels, Missouri; State Deputy Harry Franklin of Albany; District Deputy W. Croner; and State Lecturer E. E. Ganford. They would be entertained at a banquet at the Commercial Hotel.

It was announced that the local Order of Woodmen had increased in numbers and that an aggressive campaign for other members was being held.

The Whitehall Independent February 18, 1987

The Civic Improvement League of Whitehall - 1908 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

For a period of over fifty years there was an organization in the village called The Civic Improvement League of Whitehall. It was an organization that worked in the community for the bettering of conditions that we now take for granted. When the Society was disbanded, its record books were presented to the Historical Society of Whitehall. From these the improvements the League made can be recounted and credit given.

On a stormy February 19, 1908, many women gathered at the Williams Street School for its first meeting at 3:30 PM. The school was the meeting place for some time. Preliminary work had been done on a constitution. It was read at the meeting and adopted at the second. An election of officers took place also. Charter members were enrolled at this time. The list contains the names of prominent families of the town at that time. Women were not using their first names as is prevalent at this time. These members were: Mrs. John Barton, Mrs. Barton, Mrs. Bromley, Mrs. Hattie Brown, Mrs. Louis Cuneo, Mrs. John Duffield, Mrs. Durfee, Mrs. Mary Dane, Mrs. G.S. Ellis, Miss Ellen Farrington, Mrs. Hebert, Mrs. Jack Israel, Mrs. T.A. Lillie, Mrs. Manell, Mrs. Audrey Meyer, Mrs. George H. Noyes, Mrs. Georgianna Plaumend and Mrs. Alida Lattimore.

The objectives of the Civic League expressed in the constitution were to educate and organize public sentiment along the lines of improved public health, wholesome sanitary conditions, better schools, and improved civic conditions generally.

In addition to the usual society officers was a set of honorary officers and the election of a superintendent for each of seven districts into which the village was divided. These were: 1. south of Boardman Street; 2. North of Boardman Street to the junction of Canal (Main) and Church Streets; 3. North of this junction to Tug Hill; 4. Tug Hill; 5. South Williams Street; 6. North Williams Street; 7. Around the Mountain.

The objectives were emphasized in the committee structure: Program, Education, Library, Town Improvement, Junior Civic League, Membership, Entertainment, Complaints, Cemetery. These showed a clearly thought out plan for the work of the League.

The first officers elected were President Mrs. Alida Lattimore; First Vice President Mrs. John Duffield; Second Vice President Mrs. L.J. Summerfield; Third Vice President Mrs. Peter Shovah; Secretary Miss Grace Skeels; Corresponding Secretary Miss Emma Neddo; Treasurer Miss Mary Brown; Librarian Mrs. F.L. Andrews. With the admonition that personal feelings should be put down and pulling together in the campaign of education was necessary, the officers started that first year with a warning that wonders could not be expected or accomplished all at once.

In following articles some of the projects of the Civic League will be described. They concerned conditions that were corrected after a few tactful hints from the Ladies and their follow-up work. Gentlemen were welcomed as members to the Society as honorary members and some took advantage of the position.

The Whitehall Independent February 25, 1987

The Civic Improvement League Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Civic Improvement League began immediately to reach their objectives for the public. They went directly "to the top" in every question and distributed information by using the public relations in the two Whitehall newspapers - Times and Chronicle; printing "dodgers" (posters) for prominent display in the established districts of the village; writing letters, and visiting scenes under discussion.

An act of the first discussion meeting was to acknowledge the work of Dr. Guinon who had quickly isolated cases of small pox, preventing the spread of that disease. Warren Goodrich explained the old and new charters of the village.

Postmaster Wood wrote to the national government P.O. Department and gained permission to have a box in the post office for contributions of the Civic League, as it was soon called. David Rodd presented them with a beautifully made contribution box at a special meeting held in Meyers Castle on West Hill.

Dr. Foote, President of the Board of Education, explained the greatest problem of the school at that time, keeping young people in school. Youths could leave school at age

fifteen years and many did that for economic assistance to their families. The ladies suggested a woman member for the Board.

President of the Village Board of Trustees, T. A. Paterson, promised assistance in the collection of refuse left on the streets and garbage if garbage cans were supplied at various locations. The ladies investigated the possibility of securing cans through Sing Sing work but found only the signature of the Village President could secure them. In the meantime they found that the hardware merchants Willard and Marshall would sell the cans at cost. Fifteen cans were ordered and these merchants placed the cans around the village. On the first day of collection, forty loads of refuse were taken away. The cans were monitored, positions being changed if necessary and letters written to the village if collection was omitted. They were even picked up at Halloween for safe keeping.

A committee of the ladies visited the village jail and reported in a committee at a trustees' meeting the unsanitary conditions they found with suggestions. A concrete floor should replace the cinders; the walls should be whitewashed; there was a lack of cleanliness; and there were no toilet facilities.

A letter to the Superintendent of Water Works suggested a whistle be blown when the water was turned off in any part of the village. The Superintendent thought it a very good idea and complied. If it were not blown a letter soon reached him.

Not all projects were successful. The attempt at having curfew enforced met with the fact that the village charter would have to be changed. The prevention of having canal boats tie up in the village for the winter, an unsightly and unsanitary condition, met with rebuff at the state level. A cemetery association was formed, the Civic League was incorporated, a night school opened, and a sewing class for girls organized. Thoughts were implanted for a library and a playground in cooperation with the Y.M.C.A. and other nuisances pointed out spitting on the sidewalks, unsightly weeds on the streets, unsanitary conditions of outhouses, and papers thrown from the cars on Canal Street.

This doesn't seem a bad record for the first year of organization of the Civic Improvement League.

The Whitehall Independent

March 4, 1987

The Civic Improvement League and the Library

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

During the first year of its existence, 1909, The Civil League Board was informed of the work of the Y.M.C.A. This organization offered its library as a nucleus for a public library. Members of the Civic League began action on such an institution. At this time other villages were accepting the generosity of Andrew Carnegie for library buildings but the Whitehall ladies rejected that path. They wrote a newspaper article to the two papers of Whitehall, the Times and the Chronicle, listing the needs for and the benefits of such an institution in Whitehall. With the article they included a coupon for an expression of opinion of the taxpayers to be handed in.

In March a standing vote was taken on the favorable results of this vote. Possible sites had already been examined: Miller's store, the Shantee (Log Cabin), and Sullivan's rooms, but the ladies settled on the basement of Mrs. Gertrude Adams in a brick building on the corner of Wilson Alley and Williams Street with rent at \$6. The building burned some years ago.

The members of the league contributed furniture and at least one good book. Mr. Lowenstein of the Champlain Silk Mills was solicited for some book cases which he donated. The ladies also sewed rags for a rug.

In April the Civic League made a request to the village Trustees for \$300 to assist with the formation and maintenance of the library. Their reception was gratifying but they were requested to ask for an amount in January so that the sum could become an established part of the budget. The village trustees held a special meeting to hear the request. They also informed the Civic League that if the town would make a like contribution, the library would be called the Whitehall Public Library; if not, it would be called the Whitehall Free Library. The town did not appropriate the \$300 at that time and so the latter name was used. On the refusal of the town to grant money, it was not in the budget at that time, a subscription paper was circulated and the citizens subscribed much more than the amount asked for.

At the April 1909 meeting ten members were chosen for the Library Committee. Only members of the Civic League could be trustees but everyone could use the library. These first trustees were the Mesdames, W. G. C. Wood, B. H. Bascom, J. Q. Edwards, O. A. Dennis, C. J. Baldwin, F. L. Andrews, Jack Israel, George Noyes and the Misses Julia Bascom and Lulu Lotrace. Later when a State Inspector visited the library he was astonished that only one woman had accomplished such an institution and suggested a man should be on the board. Men had been given honorary membership in the first year.

By June 1909 the shelves had been installed in the library, the catalog completed, books in order, and Esther Adams hired as a librarian. To separate the books on the shelves in divisions it was suggested that covered bricks be used. June 7 a date for a Library Day be observed, the third Sunday in June.

In November 1909 Mrs. Brown of the State Library Association came to view the library. By this time there were 504 books and many magazine subscriptions. She suggested a larger supply of children's books, catering to special interests such as agriculture and ethnic groups of the town, and that the two newspapers and cuttings of the town events would be on file. (If only this had happened what a resource of material would be on hand.) It seems that games were provided for the library hours and it was now evident that special hours and a separate room be restricted for use when the library was not open.

In October the Whitehall Free Library had a State Charter, a constitution had been drawn up and read, and all reports of the library were given for publication in the two newspapers. On 23 November 1909 it was voted that all Civic League meetings would be held thereafter in the library instead of Williams Street School. Members met there until they transferred later to the Community Association rooms.

The Whitehall Independent
March 11, 1987

Whitehall Civic Improvement League
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Members of the Civic League continued to support the Whitehall Free Library with projects such as card parties, subscriptions, and volunteer labor while still holding their meetings in its rooms. In October 1911 a report was made to the League that the village trustees were attempting to gain control of land north of the bridge and the League was requested to cooperate in securing the Historical Building where the library would have rooms. Nothing was reported in the minutes until May 19, 1924 when the minutes read that the Civic League held its meeting in the new library for the first time.

This must have meant the library that was located on the second floor of the village building until it was transferred in 1953 to the present Griswold Library given to the village. During this period Miss Bessie Buel and Mrs. Lorraine Dannehy were librarians. Evidently the Whitehall Free Library had become an entity of its own. The Civic League held its meetings here for some years before meeting in other public places and in homes of its members.

The Whitehall Civic League and Boardman Cemetery

Another project of the Civic League was the care of Boardman Cemetery. Originally this cemetery consisted of two small private ones on the knoll bordering Smith Street. Smith cemetery was to the north of Boardman. Later family plots of the Martins, Manvilles, Jones, Gaylords and other were here, semi-private in nature. These lots were consolidated into one known as Boardman Cemetery. There was no general plan as a whole and no cemetery organization. To correct this condition the Civic Improvement League became interested.

In October 1908 the members voted to form a cemetery association to care for this neglected section. Mrs. John Doren was chosen chair of the committee. In the spring of 1909 letters were sent to owners of the lots explaining this project and requesting that these owners follow the League to care for the lots. In May a Tag Day for funds brought \$302.86. Estimates for a fence to enclose the area were requested. A necessary survey of the land held up the work but it was hoped the fence would be up by winter. By fall three sides had been enclosed, leaving the iron gates and front to be completed in the spring. The gate posts of this first fence are on the Museum grounds. The Civic League had collected a large sum of money for the cemetery work which was turned over to the Cemetery Committee.

In the summer of 1909 concrete steps of the pedestrian's entrance as finished, water was put in, and the care of grass and paths promised. Over the years the committee labored to keep the cemetery in order. The project was written up in the Knickerbocker News of Albany and that brought in permission of more lot owners to place the lots in the care of the committee. Another source of money was the sale of cemetery lots that were given to the committee and then sold. The first such lot was one in Smith Cemetery (this term is still used in the description of this section).

In January 1913 the Boardman heirs gave a deed to the knoll to the village. The Smith area was also given to the trustees about the same time. The trustees in turn placed the cemetery in the hands of the Civic League, who had cared for it so long and gave \$100 as an appropriation. In that year contracts for perpetual care were made with the lot owners and the village agreed to care for the roadways. More lots were entrusted to the committees' care, the fences were kept in order. A triangular plot was made into a flower garden.

In 1931 the Civic League passed a resolution concerning perpetual care of the lots. In 1933 the failure of the National lost them \$1900, some of which was later recovered. At the 13 March 1934 meeting an announcement was made that the Committee would discontinue caring for the cemetery as the village trustees had taken the project over. At a following meeting a 25 year history of the Civic League's participation in the cemetery was read but no copy of it was placed in the minutes. Now the village has the care of the cemetery and in its records have a map and a list of the burials in Boardman's Cemetery.

The Whitehall Independent March 18, 1987

Whitehall Civic Improvement League and the Playground Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

"The mills of the gods grind slow" — is a paraphrase that can be applied to the 1908-1917 growth of the playground. Members of the Civic League became interested in a playground in their first year of activity when Mr. Cookingham of the Y.M.C.A. spoke of the need, especially for the young boys of the town. The first step was to investigate nine or ten sites in the village but none was found to be suitable or desirable. A helpful public relations article in the newspapers showed the need for such an attraction.

In 1910 a petition to the Superintendent of Public Works asked for land but the petitioners were advised to wait for a more appropriate time. Aubrey Meyer of the silk mill offered a piece of land on West Street. Encouraged, the members of the Civic League wrote for pamphlets of instruction on the organization and equipment of a playground and even bought a book for the library on the subject. A state meeting on playgrounds in Rochester report gave encouragement also. Mr. Meyer was asked to speak at the playground opening but there was no further information about this site as to location or length of duration.

In 1916 the abandoned canal land came into discussion again. A bank balance of \$339 for a playground had been gathered. A reply from another letter to Albany not being satisfactory, the members of the Civic League appealed to the Village trustees, who had recognized the problem, to see if they would give support to the League. As a result in June 1916 the Superintendent of Public Works granted permission to use the state ground for a playground. This letter of permission was given to the library to keep in its files for safety. The grant included a warning if the work was not started within three months from date of permit, the grant would be withdrawn. In November the Civic

League Playground Committee turned the project over to the town board. Two months later a Playground Association was formed consisting of 24 members, one half of Civic League members and one half of Business Men's Association. Two months after that the sentiment of the Superintendent of Public Works was so favorable for the use of the land in their correspondence that the town board appropriated \$200 in its budget for preparing the ground. The Civic League gave \$360 for the equipment. The Project Playground dreamed up in 1908 was now completed for the Civic Improvement League.

In 1911 the Civic "League fixed its sights on another place. The land south of the present Riverside Park and house became so-called abandoned State Land because of the realignment of the canal. The Superintendent of Public Works in Albany replied to a letter that League should send an application and plans for such a ground. At this request the Businessmen's Association was asked for assistance which included the plans of Mr. Nehr of the Y.M.C.A.

In 1912 a playground committee was formed. Between February 1912 and April 1915 there was no mention about a playground in the minutes but in that April methods of organizing a playground and the list of the apparatus needed were assembled.

The Whitehall Independent

March 25, 1987

Whitehall Civic Improvement League and Riverside Park

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

One objective of the Civic Improvement League was the beautification of Whitehall, especially Canal Street, the main thoroughfare. From its organization in 1908 the society members had objected to papers thrown from cars, ugly weeds along the walks, and filth on the streets. Yearly the struggle was against ashes being thrown on roads and streets, and piled in large mounds.

In 1911 the Civic League worked in conjunction with the village in getting the piece of land south of Saunders Street Bridge, (in the first article on the Civic League, I wrote north instead of south). The planting of trees was always urged. Information was sought from Alderman John O'Neil.

During the period 1907 - 1912 the Champlain Barge Canal was produced by abolishing the three locks for one and setting the canal east into Wood Creek extending it southward. This left a distressful pile of debris, boulders, hunks of concrete, mud, and dirt. It was this section from the bridge south that had held the old canal that was considered for a park.

In 1913 the Civic League discussed a park. In 1914 they chose a Committee for Town Improvement and asked the town what it expected of them in developing a park. They were already collecting a Park Fund. In the spring of 1914 Alderman John O'Neil, street commissioner, was in charge of producing a park from the ash piles and other rubbish. The land south of the bridge was leased by the State to the Village indefinitely.

By May 6 grading had been finished. By May 13 the name Riverside Park had been formed from marble pieces from the old canal bridge and placed at the north side of

the park. By 20 May the fountain was brought from the high school where it had been placed from in front of the flatiron building, taken down to build Lock 12, by Edwin Hall. By 27 May trees had been planted. On 6 June two flower urns were brought from Rev. Charles E. Hamilton's lawn on South Canal Street, the present Nash home. (One has been destroyed.) For years the Civic League kept them filled with flowers with Conrad Bergmeier's advice. The League supplied benches for the park, even to seeing about winter storage. On 1 July a flag pole 52 feet long with a ten inch copper ball was raised at the north end of the park.

On 4 July the park was dedicated. The flag was raised by Miss Catherine Eights Boies Potter, daughter of Admiral Potter. The affair was arranged by the Spanish War Veterans. Rev. Hamilton was the speaker. He made a special tribute to the Civic Improvement League who "had awakened the citizens to a sense of civic pride. They can point with pride to the beautiful Riverside Park." A newspaper advertisement of Fred W. Goodrich said that pictures of the dedication and flag raising were available.

Has anyone seen any of these? Four years later the boulder project for the park was taken up by the Civic League.

The Whitehall Independent

April 1, 1987

Whitehall Civic Improvement League and the Boulder

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In May 1919 the Civic Improvement League received a letter from the Business Men's Association by President Lamberton asking that they raise \$100 toward a bronze memorial tablet. It was to be placed in Riverside Park to honor the service men.

A year and a half went by before the Civic League minutes showed a memorial in the park was a subject of discussion, 11 October 1921. A few months later, 14 February 1922, definite action was taken by gaining information about a bronze tablet. It was learned that the design they chose would cost \$120. Evidently this price seemed too high for a request went out for someone to donate a boulder and one on Edwin Hall's mansion grounds on West Mountain was investigated.

As usual, a boulder fund was established and letters were dispatched to granite dealers in the area. On 10 January 1923, a special meeting was held with Temple Brothers in Rutland. Their offer was to attend to all the work and have the boulder set in the park by Memorial Day. To accomplish this project the Civic League members asked prominent citizens to serve: Rev. Berger of the Presbyterian Church, William Inglee of the Whitehall Chronicle, Dr. Falkenbury, and John Doren of Doren Brothers.

In memory of those who made the Supreme Sacrifice
and

In Honor of
Those who served
1917 World War 1918

During the early months of its life the Civic League held meetings twice a month. Soon the decision was made that the first meeting have a business agenda and the second primarily a social one. This led to the variety of literary and informational programs that the League became noted for.

In May of its first year a badge of identification was chosen. It was a blue ribbon with the words "Civic League of Whitehall" which was sold for ten cents and worn on public appearances. The color of the letters was not given. (I wonder if any of these are in existence?) Over the years a great number of Whitehall belonged to the Civic Improvement League.

To pay for the boulder the Civic League conducted a house to house drive (\$273.10) and used Tag Day money (\$135). At the Memorial Day services the granite boulder was unveiled and presented to the Village of Whitehall by President C. H. Souter of the Civic League.

The next idea explored was to have the names of service men put on the tablet, providing the list could be obtained from the Whitehall Chronicle. It must be it couldn't be readily obtained or would be too cumbersome, for the tablet in the park, flanked by evergreens and guns, reads: ?????????

The Whitehall Independent

April 8, 1987

Whitehall Civic Improvement League

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Civic Improvement League concerned itself with many projects that benefited the community. The implementation of them necessitated time to cut "red tape" and move through interrelation with other organizations of the town through the years.

The Civic Improvement League and the Community Rooms

In January 1920 the members discussed the need for a rest room for the women shoppers in downtown. In October of that year Reverend Quinn approached the League concerning a plan for a Community Association in the village. Rooms would be needed and the Civic League was asked to form a committee with other local societies to raise the necessary funds to equip them. By the end of that year the rooms were furnished. The League loaned its piano, a possession that they had obtained by long labor in selling coupons. The rooms, by hearsay, seem to have been over the Grand Union of that time between Division and Saunders Streets on Main.

In February 1921 the meetings of the Civic League were transferred from the library to the Community Rooms where a rest room had been established. Here receptions and card parties were held for worthy causes.

The last meeting of the Civic League in the Community Rooms was in November 1923. No reason was given but the rooms were to be dismantled and the dishes and furniture were to be sold. In 1923 the money received from the sale was given to the League and the piano was on loan to the Masonic Temple. This eventually found its way

back to the library in the Village Building. It was given to the Historical Society on the dissolution of the League. It now rests in the new court room in the Village Building and has been newly refinished.

The Civic Improvement League and the Hospital

Another project with which the Civic Improvement League was concerned was the hospital, or perhaps it should be called an emergency room. There are no available newspapers of this period, but it is known that the first Y.M.C.A. north of the present Knights of Columbus burned in 1911. It held a reading room, a little stage, an emergency room, room for railroaders, and a gym. A new Railroad Y.M.C.A. was erected on the present Knights of Columbus site. In it was established an emergency room. In October 1914 the Ladies of the League were asked to furnish sheets and pillow cases. A month later Dr. Falkenbury waited on a meeting and reported what was needed to carry on the work successfully and asked that the ladies arouse the people's interest in furnishing the Y.M.C.A. building and equipping an emergency room.

The Civic League responded in raising funds but waited until the school classes meeting in the building were over in June. Special projects were a sterilizer in 1915 and a pulmotor in 1916. The last effort recorded for the Y.M.C.A. was the suggestion that the grounds be beautified. A month after, they were assured that the Railroad gardener would attend to this project.

The Civic Improvement League and the Old Ladies Home in Greenwich

In 1910 the Old Ladies Home in Greenwich came to the attention of the Civic League. They learned there was room for three Whitehall women. The League was soon involved in assisting raising funds and providing a permanent home and an endowment fund. They gave donations parties. They met with the Business Men's Association to plan what could be done for this county wide project. Both organizations made subscription drives and delivered a sum for this fund by Thanksgiving through the work of the Old Ladies Home Committee that had been formed.

The Whitehall Independent **April 15, 1987**

Whitehall Civic Improvement League and the Junior Civic League **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

In its first year, 1908, the Civic Improvement League became aware of what a junior league could do for the beautification of Whitehall. Over forty children attended a meeting to hear the results of a tag day in which they had had a part. The next grass seeds were ordered and distributed and prizes promised for the finest flower garden and the neatest backyard from which debris had been removed.

A flower exhibit was held at Meyer's Castle as Mrs. Meyer was an active Civic League member. Prizes were distributed. A Christmas party was given in the same place at which 102 juniors received small statues. That winter prizes were awarded for the best window box. A Junior League was formed at the Elbow with 19 members.

In 1910, 205 Juniors wrote essays describing why they belonged to the League. In 1911 plots of land around town were allotted on which to raise plants and flowers. When in this year there was no adult leader, the Junior League, money in the bank was turned over to the Civic League. The Civic League did not abandon the youth. With the Business Men's Association, a place for a pond was secured. When Chautauqua came to town they made sure there was a junior Chautauqua, secured by petitions. Still later the Girl Scout troops were sponsored, especially those of Roxana Lewis and Mrs. Pray. Uniforms were secured for the Junior Drum and Bugle Corps of the American Legion. In 1918 Victory War Gardens were provided by the children.

In the 1920-1930's the Civic League members became a co-operative agency for traveler's aid in Whitehall. It started with assistance to a young station girl coming to Whitehall alone. One case was helping six school boys change trains. Over the years there were 1,929 calls in the area for such aid. After ten years the calls declined in number and the aid was discontinued.

In 1915 a project was started to secure free delivery of mail. Some things took time. A letter went to the Postmaster General. Replies to requests saying the matter was being looked into came over two years. In November 1918 Whitehall had Free Delivery.

There were a number of projects connected with the war effort. The members marched in Liberty Bond drives and parades, worked in the Red Cross rooms, raised money for war refugees and the Near East Relief. This latter effort took the form of selling hand decorated handkerchiefs from the Near East countries.

The Whitehall Independent

April 22, 1987

Whitehall Civic Improvement League

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Besides the large projects of the Civic Improvement League, many smaller ones were developed in the interest of the beautification of Whitehall.

The showing of moving pictures on Sunday and the kind of pictures were a continual point of notice, even to viewing them for point of reference. Health of the public was important. When Canal Street was being paved, especially, there was urging of keeping all food and drink covered and information about the unhealthy results of having flies was distributed.

The tax on oleomargarine, "the butter of the poor" was the topic of letters to state officials until the tax was removed. The muzzling of dogs, especially in July and August, was strongly urged. If you have seen pictures of the billboards along the canal, you can understand the effort to abolish them. The ladies led the movement to remove the telegraph poles that clogged the streets. They joined the Business Men's Association in prohibiting handbills distributed to make for litter free streets. The parking of bicycles and cars was decried. There was a rubbish ordinance that stated bicycles were vehicles and should not be allowed on sidewalks.

When the canal was being realigned, the Atlantic and Pacific Construction Company was asked to save the relics from the Revolutionary boats and turn them over to responsible persons for a museum. You may remember such were kept in the Masonic Temple until they were placed on the Armory lawn. The Mosher Spring south of Williams Street School was deemed a possibility for a beauty spot of flowers, but they found it belonged to the school system. Over the years the focus of the Civic Improvement League changed. The improvement of Whitehall was always foremost. However, local government at other organizations took over projects they had or would have had. Even in the final year, the second meeting of the month stressed the entertainment value. There were speakers on many subjects for improvement/ education, programs of reading and music.

After the use of the Community Rooms, meetings were again held in the library and at member's homes. The twice monthly meetings changed to once a month and afternoon teas to luncheons which featured a speaker.

Ways of life changed and it became difficult to find officers with time and willingness to assume leadership. The last minutes recorded were in May, 1951. Soon after that the Civic League was dissolved leaving its piano and chairs to the Historical Society of Whitehall which had been reactivated.

Visible effects of these works of the Civic League exist in Whitehall and the mention of its name still has meaning to many citizens.

The Whitehall Times

June 24, 1976

The Civic Improvement League - 1908

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Parallels of action can often be noted in the life of a town. The 1908 account of the Whitehall Civic League resemble somewhat the present Chamber of Commerce contest to present a pleasant Whitehall to its visitors.

The Civic League, very quickly shortened from the title "Civic Improvement League," was organized Feb. 19, 1908, in the kindergarten room of Williams Street School. The objectives followed those of similar societies springing up all over the United States — to make the home town a more, beautiful and healthful place of abode with proper educational families.

Cliché wise, "no grass grew under these ladies' feet." On Arbor Day, May 9, a general cleanup occurred. Rubbish cans were fastened on the Main Street. During the summer these improvements were noted: The village jail renovated; the village clock repaired; new cement walks in the business section; a modern and well furnished post office; improvement in present structures; better looking yards, gardens and streets; school buildings repaired; water system and sewage system investigated.

An example is Riverside Park, which John O'Neil helped in providing. To them Whitehall owes this beautiful "centerpiece" with its shade trees, its historic watering trough, its memorial to town heroes. It had been kept a dignified place of quiet beauty.

A placard against the obnoxious spitting on sidewalks, floors and crosswalks was desired, although it was noted that spitting on the new cement sidewalks had decreased.

The work of the Civic League was expedited by having an executive board in which business matters were organized before being presented to the regular meeting. At public meetings, held every four or six weeks, noted specialists in a variety of fields were guest speakers.

A bulletin board in the post office informed citizens of the League's affairs and a suggestion box was placed in Manville's drug store.

And this was the picture the ladies saw in the crystal ball of 1908: The Barge Canal completed; the tracks of the D&H railroad in the old canal bed; Canal Street renamed Champlain Avenue and one of the most beautiful streets in the state; no business signs jutting over the streets; no merchandise blocking the passage of pedestrians; the "flats" turned into a public park; telegraph and telephone services underground.

The ladies had the cooperation of the business men.

The Whitehall Times September 12, 1985

The Civic Improvement League - 1909 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Civic League Improvement Society in the first half of the twentieth century was a great benefactor of the Village of Whitehall. One success was the library established in the James Adams house on Williams street. This site now is a vacant space at the corner of Wilson Alley which is pleasing lawn. \.

On 6 May 1909 a large hearted support in subscriptions for current expenses saw the establishment of the institution. Citizens sent books directly to the rooms for classification and arrangement. Miss Zaidee Brown had hoped for deadline of the organization in June when the State Librarian was to come to Whitehall. The league asked the village to contribute support of \$350. In support of the plea one citizen figured it out that thirteen cents paid on \$1,000 wouldn't hurt anyone.

The Civic League's annual meeting in May 1911 showed the growth of the Whitehall Free Library over two years. Mrs. H. H. Bascom, treasurer of the Library committee, reported that during the year

1910-1911 the receipts had been \$1363 and the disbursements \$1040.26

Edith Adams, Librarian, gave her report for the year, somewhat similar to the one that librarians still give to the public. The number of books issued to the readers was 12,448. Books bought were 195 and donated 163. Accessioned were 1455 (could be accessioning was behind). New readers were 303 with 226 adults and 77 children. Overtime collections were \$73.56. The taxpayers contributed \$300.

From Williams Street the library was placed in the second story of the village building where Miss Buell reigned for many years, guiding adult and children's reading. With the gift of Mrs. Manville, the library was settled in its present home at Twelve Williams street in a building built by the Griswold family in 1856,

The Civic League provided many other services for the village. It had charge of the Boardman-Smith cemeteries for a time. In 1910 it made improvements in caring for the lots. For this service they collected \$399.71 and spent \$602.91 but a comfortable balance left them \$407.64 on 1 May 1911.

Mrs. John Doren was chairman of the Cemetery Committee. In her tenure with the assistance of Henry J. Waters, Street Commissioner, an iron fence was placed across the front of the cemetery. When the village recently replaced this fence, the first iron posts were erected on Skenesborough Museum grounds. About the same time as the iron fence, the concrete steps and main gate were provided. C. H. Jackson was hired to clean up the cemetery and water was put in.

One complaint received through Mrs. Bellegarde of the Complain Committee to the Ladies of the League was the unpleasant odor of the manure piles in the backyards. One person had even written to the Health Department in Albany on an especially bad one on East Boardman Street. The Ladies had no power to enforce suggestions but they could make it known that the Civic League would appreciate the cleaning up of the nuisance.'

Another project of the league was that of a Junior Civic League. Mrs. Ellis was chairman and her report stated that in 1910 the youth participated in Decoration Day ceremonies in Boardman Cemetery, the annual flower show held at the Meyers Castle Playhouse and the Christmas services in Adams and Elbow schools. Mrs. Aubry Meyers was made honorary president of the Civic League for the interest she took in the Junior Civic League.

The Whitehall Times

April 20, 1987

The Civic Improvement League

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The fame of the Whitehall Civic League, as it was known, in the first half of the twentieth century, spread to the surrounding communities. Other villages copied its organization and purposes. So much so, that Albany's Knickerbocker Press asked President Hattie Brown for its story. She complied and on 7 November 1915 the write-up appeared in the Albany paper. The article referred to the work that had been accomplished in Whitehall and gave much credit to the trustees of the village and the citizens for their efforts, especially trustee John O'Neil for his work on Riverside Park and the streets. This led to an article in Town Topics with a headline "Whitehall Owes Much to Its Noble Women." It listed the library, paved roads, cleaner streets, increase in civic pride, and a better Whitehall morally as accomplishments.

The Whitehall Independent
July 17, 1985

Junior Civic League
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A Garden Show

How many garden spots do you look forward to seeing in Whitehall each year? A few could be at the corner of Maple and Smith streets, by the wall of Liberty Eatery; the urns of Skenesborough Museum and its lilies and those of Isaac C. Griswold Library and in the American Legion Park all donated by Russell Taft, D.D.S.; the window boxes of Key Bank; the hanging baskets of the many merchants; the bed in the watering trough in Riverside Park and in front of its Veterans marker. How many more can you add? Other places could be planted around the village. How much nicer it is to see a bright flower than a bunch of old papers and cigarette butts.

Newspapers carry items about flowers and flower shows, vegetable gardens and prize vegetables. It has ever been so as it was in 1910 when the Junior Civic League held a Flower Show in September. It was held in the Play House at Meyers Castle with Mrs. Meyers as hostess.

Marie Giles, who had won first prize the year before, repeated her performance this year. She was praised not only for her flowers but also for her taste in arrangement. She won a cyclamen bearing its first blossom.

Louise Robetor, also a first prize winner in 1909, and again this year received "Stories from English History."

The vegetable prize went to Robert Harrigan for his fine cauliflower. It was offered for sale and was purchased by Mrs. Robert Hall for mustard pickles. The vegetable was scarce this year. Young Robert received a book "Docas, The Indian Boy from Santa Clara" from the Civic League.

At four o'clock the young school pupils gave recitations and Mrs. Meyer: served them all with refreshments.

How many of the "young people" of that time can some of you recall? Elinor Barker, Althea Yemans, Ethel Packard Mary Shambo, Irene Scott, Farrington Gunnison, Douglass Beckwith, Eleanor Hall Martha Souter, Miriam Sabourin

This youthful pride in growing thing will be evidenced at the up-coming Washington County Fair.

The Whitehall Times
May 15, 1980

The Historical Society
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Historical Society of Whitehall honored the Whitehall High School Class of 1930 on May 10 at its annual Founders Day luncheon. This class had one of the highest percentages of attendance since the observance began.

The original Historical Society of Whitehall was suggested in 1909 when a paper was circulated to test the interest in such a group. During 1910 the society was formed and began regular meetings with programs developed by its members. The constitution and by-laws were submitted to the New granted in 1911.

From the society evolved the research work of Clarence Holden, Hermon Sullivan and Mr. Loomis. With kindred spirits they visited area cemeteries and interviewed older people in the community. From this came Clarence Holden's written records of Whitehall, now in the manuscript room of the New York State Library.

On May 2, 1951, Town Historian Elizabeth Carpenter led in the reactivation of the historical society, using the same state charter. Its first meeting was held in August. Since then five regular meetings have been held each year, with the later addition of the Founders Day Luncheon.

The first 50-year graduate observance was held in 1955 at a regular June meeting when the graduates of 50 years or over were honored. These were Mrs. George Noyes, Mrs. Herbert Bartholomew, Mrs. I.E. Hughes, Miss Alena Manville and Mrs. Milo Johnson.

John Sheehy, president of the Class of 1955, read the names while Phyllis Saladin pinned corsages. Bernard Murphy handed out "diplomas." Leonard Rich and William Jones sang "Alma Mater." Lawrence Inglee, vice president of the Historical Society, drew reminiscences from the graduates with "Do You Remember Her?"

Some classes of alum hold annual meetings, be these get-togethers are just as happy as those held on special occasions. There joy on hearing the exciting greetings and remembrances.

The Whitehall Independent
February 5, 1985

Whitehall Chronicle – December 17, 1909
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Holy Name Society of Our Lady of Angels was organized at this time.

The Whitehall Times
December 13, 1973

Whitehall Shakespeare Society
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Literary societies were not unknown in Whitehall nor were lecture courses and lyceums in the early part of the century. One such organization was the Whitehall Shakespeare club. Mrs. Ruth Duggan has presented Skenesborough Museum with a printed program of this society for 1912-1913. This was in the time before radio and TV brought the classics and documentaries to the public. People interested in such matters sought out their own information and had a social time in doing it.

The members of this particular club were eleven in number. The president that year was Miss Lillian Potter, daughter of J. Sanford Potter and owner of a home on Mountain Terrace. The secretary was Miss Alena Manville, an outstanding school teacher and later Whitehall's Bicentennial Queen.

The other members were distinguished citizens. Mrs. Lucy Pearl was the daughter of Henry Gaylord, a prominent businessman. She was a school teacher. Those who knew her remember the rollicking story she used to tell of the name combinations of her pupils.

Mrs. Annie Manville was the daughter of W. A. Wilkins, editor of The Whitehall Times, who left her home as the Isaac Griswold Library.

Mrs. Loretta Doren was the wife of John Doren. We did not learn of Mrs. Lillian Andrews.

Miss Julia Bascom was the daughter of Oliver Bascom. She was interested in young people and devoted her energies to them. Miss Clara Bascom was an accomplished musician and organist in the Presbyterian Church.

Miss Grace Skeels was the daughter of businessman Hiram Skeels. She was an earnest worker in the Episcopal Church and operated a boarding home for teachers.

Miss Bessie Buel was an outstanding soprano of the village. She was a librarian in the village library for many years.

Miss Maude Manville was a teacher who assisted in training pupils in readying themselves for scholastic oratorical work.

These women banded together to form the Whitehall Shakespeare Club. Evidently the Shakespeare theme had been covered in former years as the theme for 1912-13 as stated in the program was "France, delightful France, my theme shall be." Meetings were held from October to April, three or four a month. Every other meeting was open with a roll call, responses made on such topics, as current events, great inventors, cathedrals of France, noted French artists, and quotations from Shakespeare. The alternate meetings opened with a "Question Box." One wonders what that was.

Each meeting contained a topic on France in general; for example Regency of the Duke of Orleans, John Law's Financial System, Louis XV, Fall of the Bastille, and the Reign of Terror, followed by three or four short sketches of French persons: Corneille, Watteau, Wolfe, Mme. de Stael, Marat, and sometimes readings from literature like "The tale of Two cities," Carlyle's French Revolution, Vanity Fair, Victor Hugo.

Such groups are not uncommon today though many are known as courses which last for a specified number of meetings. Whitehall has an interesting one associated with the Isaac C. Griswold Library. Its president, Mrs. Ethel Farnham, has instituted periodical meetings in which two book reviews are given, contrasting a woman of earlier times with one of the present day. Mrs. Farnham ends each meeting with suggested good readings from the library resources.

The Whitehall Times
May 21, 1987

M. W. A. and Spanish American War Vets – 1914-15
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Organizations not now in existence flourished. The Modern Woodmen of America was to have its annual Social Dinner.

On May 4, the Admiral P. Potter Camp No. 90 Spanish War veterans were planning a May 29 annual Ball.

The Whitehall Times
July 9, 1987

Sons of Italy – 1914-15
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A new Italian Lodge was organized Sunday 28 March 1915 in W. A. Siraco's Hall, a local order of the Sons of Italy, to be known as Alpine di Savoia Lodge No. 328. Several officers of the State Grand Lodge were present. Officers chosen were N. A. Siraco, Charles Liquore, Gaetane Ambrosine, N. Bathglieri, Vincezo Reartelotte, Vincenzo Catone, Napleon Spadore Giuseppe Grazine, Francisco Leonbruno, Antonio Fortine, Gluiseppe Natale, Giovanne Scaecia, Vincenzo Epifania.

The Whitehall Times
July 30, 1987

Whitehall Kennel Club - 1915
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Dog Show - A Whitehall Kennel Club had been organized by 10 November 1915. The president was Thomas Kissane, the well-known owner of Caton Kennels on Saunders Street. Here he raised celebrated Airedales, famous for their intelligence the

world over. Thus we have the name Canton Hill for the first part of Saunders, the other half being Tug Hill. The treasurer was Mrs. W. D. Harrington, wife of the merchant. She had several full-blooded toy spaniels. These two members were planning for a dog show in January.

The kennel, though small was still in existence in the late 1920's on Saunders Street (but was moved, I believe, to the Blue Goose area).

The Whitehall Times December 2, 1982

Whitehall Auto Clubs - 1920 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Early Automobile Clubs

How many remember the first time he saw an automobile? Was it the doctor's that chugged along, making his calls faster (if the car didn't break down)? Or was it when the horse reared in acute fright at the coming monster? Or was it the long streaming scarf that followed behind the hat tied under the chin surmounted with goggles? My memory was of the squeaking hens that fluttered frantically across the road.

This article on a meeting of automobilists sparked the memories. We have similar meetings today in the groups of motorcyclists or caravanists. There was such a meeting May 14, 1920, in Whitehall. About 350 autoists of the Glens Falls and Whitehall Automobile Club and the Granville club convened for a banquet at the Whitehall Armory. The immediate purpose seemed to be that there would be a more active and enthusiastic spirit of cooperation between Whitehall and Glens Falls to promote the interest of the two communities and in turn all of northern New York.

The pilot car of Glens Falls, decorated with banners and pennants, started from that city at 6:30 p.m.; followed by the caravan. In earlier days visitors to Whitehall of such groups were met at the outskirts and escorted to their destination. This time it was the armory. Fred Doren and Dr. Horton were the hosts for a turkey and trout dinner in the basement trimmed with flowers and evergreen favors. The meal was served by the young ladies and matrons of the Baptist Social Circle.

Remarks were made by the officials of the auto clubs and hosts, followed by an hour's oration by Rev. D. Judkins of Glens Falls on "The Effect of the American Spirit in the Next Phase of Civilization." Practical points discussed were the proposed state road between Ticonderoga and Whitehall. Senator Mortimer Ferris of Ticonderoga, 25 miles from Whitehall, had to travel 90 miles to reach the meeting as he had to go via Schroon Lake and Glens Falls to reach the banquet. Such a road was thought to open up relations from the south and Essex County. Herbert W. Baker, secretary of the New York State Auto Association, stressed road conditions and the necessity of laws for the "safety of life and limb." He deplored the law that allowed 18-year olds to operate a car whether blind, crippled or physically unfit. In 1919, he stated that 1,287 people had been killed. Of

600,000 licensed autoists in New York State only ten per cent knew the rules of the road. He urged a resolution to legislators to enact a licensing law based on an examination.

Captain Frank Toby, Troop G, New York State Constabulary, reported that the intent of state troopers was not to make war on automobilists but to see that they complied with the law and urged that examples be made of the violators. Work was being done to curb motorcyclists from speeding.

The old adage, "There's nothing new under the sun" seems to be proved for these are the same topics discussed today — more and better roads, youth on the road, and laws for safety of life and limb.

The next year the Whitehall Auto Club wrote Assemblyman Herbert Bartholomew to know his position on a bill that would require auto owners to purchase a \$10,000 bond. This bill Senator Ferris opposed.

The Whitehall Times September 26, 1985

Bits and Pieces in 1922 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Good Fellows Club of 1921 had subscribed substantially to a fund for the poor people to help make Christmas brighter and happier.

Officers of Bezek Sanatorium No. 156 elected, in January, High Priest M. D. Marshall; Grand Byaster James M. Havens; Registrar D. A. Rodd; and Banker A. L. Townsend.

The Ladies of the Orient held a social 20 January All Odd Fellows, Rebeccahs, and friends were invited.

Kahchaquahua Club had a party 16 January in Gray's Hall.

The Whitehall Times October 31, 1985

Some Bits and Pieces of Whitehall in 1922 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The first anniversary of Order of Eastern Star was held 14 March. There was a musical program and dinner. Mrs. D.A. Forbush, Worthy Matron, received a costly string of pearls; Mrs. Horton, a Star pin and Dr. Ernest Horton, Worthy Patron, a Masonic pin.

The Whitehall Times
November 28, 1985

Some Bits and Pieces of Whitehall in 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Rural Charity Club activities sometimes made the newspapers for their social activities. The luncheons were held in the homes of the members with friends assisting the hostess in refreshments. The June luncheon was held in the home of Mrs. Charles Adams. It was made special by a birthday gift of a watch to Mrs. Adams so she could "tell time" when she went West to visit her brothers Daniel and James McFarren.

The Champlain Council of C.W.B.L. (who knows these lettered twenty year installation and banquet was held 8 June in Woodman's Hall location?) with the luncheon at the Ridgeway (Elks). The president was Mrs. George Noyes.

The Whitehall Times
December 12, 1985

Some Bits and Pieces of Whitehall in 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Whitehall Court No. 84 Order of the Amaranth received its charter 20 July. There were 150 members present including forty grand officers from other chapters.

The Whitehall Times
December 24, 1985

Some Bits and Pieces of Whitehall in 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

This month seemed to be election time for many organizations not in existence now. The Royal Neighbors of America on 18 December chose Mrs. Eva Bartholomew, oracle. The Bezek Sanctorum No. 138 BOH chose David A. Rodd Hyastytie.

A new church brotherhood to promote Christian fellowship was organized at the Presbyterian Church at a dinner served by Mrs. David Benjamin. The president chosen was James T. Shirley.

The Whitehall Times
January 30, 1986

Bits and Pieces in 1932
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Foresters Court No. 4434 was visited by Robert L. Kinner of Gouverneur, Superior, and other officials who gave an illustrated lecture and musical program at the Maccabees Hall.

The Whitehall Times
February 6, 1986

Some Bits and Pieces of Whitehall in 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Court McLoghlin did quite a bit of charitable work. On 21 October they brought a Canadian band to the Whitehall Armory to raise funds. This was possible for a small town because the band was booked for appearances in Glens Falls and Rutland and this could be fitted into their schedule.

The 25th anniversary of the Knights of Columbus was being planned. A smoker, banquet, and ball were planned. The smoker was planned for Saturday night 3 November. On Sunday a benediction and sermon would be held at Our Lady of Angles at 5 o'clock followed by a turkey banquet at Griswold Hall at six thirty provided by the Catholic Daughters. On Monday there would be a concert from eight to nine with the Paul Whiteman Orchestra at the Armory. It would have nine pieces. The decorations of the Armory would be elaborate. This would be followed by dancing until two. The supper was to be served by the ladies of the Rosary Society. This supper had been changed from the usual January date.

Whitehall Lodge No. 5, I.O.O.F. was furnishing a room at the new Odd Fellows home in Ithaca. It was to be called the Whitehall Room and be at the disposal of the aged and indigent members of the Lodge.

The Rebeccas were strong in Whitehall. Mrs. May Barker was district deputy of Washington County. This month she took a degree team to Greenwich and went on to Salem for installations.

The Whitehall Times
February 13, 1986

Some Bits and Pieces of Whitehall in 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Camp Fire Girls hiked to Comstock, Saturday, 14 October morning. They enjoyed a field lunch and visited Great Meadow Prison. They returned home by train. Their chaperone was Miss Eleanor Hall.

The Whitehall Times
February 27, 1986

Some Bits and Pieces of Whitehall in 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Kahechoquahaua Club held its meeting at the home of Mrs. H. G. Hays. The study of Queen Victoria ended. Old English songs were rendered.

The Whitehall Times
March 6, 1986

Some Bits and Pieces of Whitehall in 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Trusela Camp Fire girls walked fourteen miles to the farm of John Brown for games and luncheon. This was both ways. They were accompanied by leader Mrs. Williard Tobin.

The Whitehall Times
April 12, 1984

Sons of Italy - 1926
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Sons of Italy society merged with, the Mount Carmel Society.

The Whitehall Times
November 12, 1987

Knights of Pythias, 1930's
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Back in the 1930's an organization called the Knights of Pythias held its meetings in the rooms over Henry Neddo's store (Chases). There was an accompanying woman's order for my landlady to attend its meetings. The 13 April 1872 issue of the Washington County News described the order.

The order was instituted 19 February 1864 at Washington City by J. H. Rathbone. On 11 August 1868 its Supreme Lodge of the World was organized and by 1872 had spread to Europe and Canada with over 130,000 members in its thirty-nine jurisdictions, twenty-six grand lodges, and 21,000 subordinate lodges. Its ruling offices were called Supreme Chancellor and Grand Scribe. The national headquarters was the Supreme Lodge.

The work of the order was composed of three attractive degrees amid glittering trappings and splendid knightly uniforms.

The aims of the order were of the highest to alleviate the sufferings of mankind, succor the unfortunate, sit by the bedside of the sick, sooth the pillow of the dying; perform the last rites at the grave, offer consolation to the widow and children. It preached no creed of religion but sought justice for all; brotherly love and charity were its pillars.

The Whitehall Lodge of Knights of Pythias was called the North Star Lodge N. 68 and met every Thursday evening. So far I have seen no other mention of this lodge in any papers I have examined. One wonders if its records are in some hidden corner.

Parks

The Whitehall Times
July 17, 1986

100 Years Ago in Whitehall, 1886
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

During the first week of July the village had put a fountain opposite the village building.

The Whitehall Times
July 24, 1986

100 Years Ago in Whitehall, 1886
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Last week the Whitehall Times had an article on the Riverside Park fountain. This additional information was in the paper one hundred years ago. The three tiered fountain now in the Park was erected at the north end of the village before the Flatiron building there in 1886 to replace one that in turn was erected near the depot. The comment was "to give the unchecked horses chance to reach water." An informant tells me that checked horses don't get to drink while in that condition.

The Whitehall Times
August 9, 1976

The Cannon on the Hill - 1889
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Soldiers and Sailors monument site on Cliff Street on the side of Skene Mountain commemorates the veterans of the Civil War. It is easily seen as it flies the American flag under the care of the American Legion.

The story of the monument is one of patriotism, frustration and finally elation. Participants in securing it were members of A. H. Tanner post, 563, G.A.R., and Ladies (Women in one place) of the Relief Corps.

The ladies of the Relief Corps brought the plan before the public in response to a rebuke of Chaplain Gordon chiding Whitehall for not having a monument to the Civil War participants. Learning that the government would loan cannons to G.A.R. posts for this purpose, the ladies approached the Tanner post members. They offered the small amount of money in their treasury and pledged to have a play for the benefit of the fund. All expenses of transportation and other items would have to be borne by Whitehall.

This request brought to light action already made by the post for the same purpose but the post had planned secrecy until the cannon had arrived. They had applied in 1896 and received word that they were to pick up one 100-pounder Parrott Gun No. 289 weighing 9779 pounds. They also kindly made Mrs. James Carrigan, president of the corps, and her officers a committee to arrange and provide for all details for the cannon monument!

A suggested place was on the west bank of Wood Creek east of the canal between the two bridges. The Spanish-American War intervened and the cannon lay in storage. Records for the big day of dedication are lacking for detail of the preparation.

But in August, 1899, the Reunion Day of G.A.R. in Whitehall included the dedication. There was an influx of people from all the surrounding towns; meals were prepared for a few thousand, sales in stores boomed, a parade was held in two parts, one

before lunch and one after. The dedication was at the monument with the great throng before it on the side hill to hear the exercises. At least 750 veterans with their families were present.

This reunion was prepared by Colonel Luke Carrington, a member of the Tanner Post. After Judge Lillie gave an address to the veterans, he praised Mr. Carrington highly. Department Commander Joseph King gave the main speech.

The speech was given verbatim in the paper but a few sentences give the tenor: "This monument may stand for ages, but outlasting stone and bronze and cannon in memory dear, there will ever remain to the people of the country a pride in its heroes which stone or bronze cannot perpetuate or transmit." And again, "Ladies and Gentlemen: This beautiful monument unique and ornate in character contributed by you and by these ceremonies dedicated is a valued monitor. It points the way to glory. It recognizes heroism and self-sacrifice of your countrymen."

There is a thought that President McKinley attended the exercises. There is no description of his visit in the newspaper account of this dedication which surely would have been front page news. The account does say President McKinley greets Whitehallers, doubtless a letter to that effect.

The monument stands on Cliff Street, although minus the cannon balls that once decorated the corners of its platform, and can be seen by visitors as well as towns people.

The Whitehall Times

April 18, 1895

The Cannon on the Hill - 1899

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Does the flag still fly from the Monument on the hill in memory of the Civil-Spanish American War Veterans as it did on 24 August 1899?

This date was the occasion of the dedication of the monument on Cliff Street at the annual reunion of the Washington County Veterans Day the honoring of the Veteran Colonel Luke Carrington who was instrumental in obtaining the cannon for Whitehall and placing it in its conspicuous spot.

Besides Whitehall's A.M. Tanner Post Veteran guest posts came from Washington County posts, and the nearby towns of Vermont and Essex County. The spectators were estimated at 5,000 which included 2000 outside the village and 3000 Whitehallers. There were five musical groups from these places to march in the parade.

The parade contained 400 veterans and 600 others, beside the Women's Relief Corps who marched on the sidewalks. Company I marched in platoon form with Lieutenants Dennis and Bartholomew at the head of the divisions. The reviewing stand was on Broad Street in front of Mrs. Griswold's millinery store. The parade ended by going across the lower bridge to the Village building. It later reformed and marched to Cliff Street in front of the cannon. The populace spread out over the side of Skene Mountain to hear the orators, eight in all.

Rev. Richards gave the invocation. Judge Lillie presided and gave a humorous unconventional address. The main oration was made by Department Commander Joseph W. Kay. It was printed entire in the Whitehall Chronicle. He paid tribute to Washington County's place in history - Colonial, Revolution, War of 1812 and the part of the troops of the Civil War, especially the 123rd Regiment of Washington County. This Regiment was organized in 1862 and became a part of Williams Division of Slocum's 12th Corps. It was at Chancellorville and Gettysburg and took part in Sherman's march to the Sea.

This was a gala day for Whitehall. Mills and factories were closed. Ladies of five churches fed the visiting veterans. The weather was perfect. The tradesmen were prosperous. And, as usual, Whitehall's hospitality was acknowledged by compliments of the visiting speakers and guests.

The Whitehall Times September 7, 1972

Riverside Park - 1914 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

One more attractive feature for the Village of Whitehall has been placed at the north end of Riverside Park by the village fathers in the form of a native stone wall. This replaces an iron rod fence and has an added place for flower receptacles on the top.

Riverside Park is now 58 years old, having been formed from the unsightly remains of the earlier canal bed when the canal was placed eastward into the bed of Wood creek back in 1914.

The late Mrs. Thomas Kissane once described her first impressions of Whitehall when she came here to live. On a dreary March day she rode into the village with her husband in an open buckboard with the rain pouring down on them. The site of the present park contained canal boats that had been parked there all winter. Great piles of garbage extended up the sides of the boats and gray wash was flapping in the cold wind. Needless to say she viewed her new home village through a flood of tears and wished she had never seen it. But she hastened to add that she came to love Whitehall and its people dearly.

At the time of the making of Riverside Park, there was a small paper published in Whitehall called Town Topics. From it is gleaned the story of the park as it grew. The persons directly responsible for this beautification project were Alderman John O'Neill and the members of the Civic League. In April the paper announced "The little village park — Whitehall's oasis among the ash piles --is being readied for the good old summer days."

The land was leased by the state to the village indefinitely, and the park was to extend south from Saunders Street Bridge and west of the barge canal. By May 6 the park had been graded and excavations made for 75 trees. This seems a large number for the space. Right now the oasis contains 23 large elm and soft maple trees and 15 small maple trees. It makes a pleasant view for visitors and citizens alike.

The name of the park is written at its north end in letters of white marble. They were formed from pieces of the old canal bridge and broken by John Mansfield and William J. Edmonds. The editor suggested that the name of Canal Street now be changed. He had several names presented to him, such as Front Street, Skene Street, Broadway and River Street. It is easy to see why the change was not made, as there was already a Skene Street and the others would not then be appropriate for the long Canal Street of the time.

The next bit of furnishing was a water pipe for a fountain. When the village building stood at the corner of Canal and Broad streets before the new lock was constructed (and on the site of Whitehall's first Phoenix hotel) there was a drinking fountain for horses, a small upper section and a large lower section. The editor says that this fountain was bought by Edwin Hall and erected on the grounds of the Central School when it was built. That would have been back in 1866. Another place that it occupied was almost at the east entrance to the footbridge where it started in front of Doren's Store on Williams Street. By May 27 it had been established in Riverside Park and was "spouting a welcome." Now it no longer spouts but had been filled with dirt and planted with colorful flowers. Outside it is an enclosure with flowers which makes it seem larger. Have you noticed recently that the undersides of the bowls have beautiful decorations? The fountain was in play for the Memorial Day exercises. By this time also the walks had been laid.

The Whitehall Times September 14, 1972

Riverside Park - 1914 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Shortly after Memorial Day, 1914, two iron flower urns were placed in the park, a gift from the Rev. Charles E. Hamilton, chaplain of Great Meadow prison in Comstock. Mr. Hamilton bought, in 1912, the home on South Canal Street that once belonged to B. F. Lacca, a sponsor of one of the hose companies of Whitehall. His home on that street was one of the showplaces of the village and contained these urns. Two others have been added to the park since then. A 50-foot flag pole was donated by R. G. Hayes, cashier of the National Bank. It was surmounted by a large copper ball which has since disappeared. The flag first flown from it was presented by the G.A.R. Veterans, through Colonel Luke Carrington of 123rd Regiment fame. When Riverside was dedicated on 4 July 1914, the flag and flagpole were accepted by the president of the village, Dr. E. T. Horton, as Miss Catharine E. B. Potter raised the flag. She was accompanied by her father, Rear Admiral William P. Potter, who was in full uniform. She it was who 45 years later cut the ribbon that opened Skenesborough Museum.

"Nothing occurred to mar the pleasure of the day." Fifty children sang "America". E. J. Guay recited the history of the flag, Calicone's Band played, and the Rev. C. E. Hamilton gave a short address.

Soon after the benches, bought by the Civic League, were installed and a railing constructed on the east side above the wall of the old canal. Horatio Douglass seeded the lawn which soon became a green carpet. Since that time Riverside has had additions. At its western center edge are two cedars flanking a monument for Whitehall World War I servicemen. It reads: "In memory of those who made the Supreme Sacrifice and in honor of those who served, 1917-1918." On each side are guns from that war. At the southern end also flanked by cedars is the Whitehall Honor Roll of World War II. An alphabetical list according to services is painted on a board supported by the wall of the fire house. At present some of the names are weathered.

In 1959 the Washington County Historical Society erected a plaque that reads: Birthplace of the United States Navy. Arnold's Valcour Fleet in summer of 1776, in Skenesborough Harbor, now Whitehall.

A bandstand has been erected. Riverside indeed is a delightful oasis in the center of our village. Would that people had more time to sit and enjoy it.

The Whitehall Independent

August 28, 1985

The Civic Improvement League and Riverside Park

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

One objective of the Civic Improvement League was the beautification of Whitehall, especially Canal Street, the main thoroughfare. From its organization in 1908 the society members had objected to papers thrown from cars, ugly weeds along the walks, and filth on the streets. Yearly the struggle was against ashes being thrown on roads and streets, and piled in large mounds.

In 1911 the Civic League worked in conjunction with the village in getting the piece of land south of Saunders Street Bridge, (in the first article on the Civic League, I wrote north instead of south).

The planting of trees was always urged. Information was sought from Alderman John O'Neil.

During the period 1907 - 1912 the Champlain Barge Canal was created by abolishing the three locks for one and setting the canal east into Wood Creek extending it southward. This left a distressful pile of debris, boulders, hunks of concrete, mud, and dirt. It was this section from the bridge south that had held the old canal that was considered for a park.

In 1913 the Civic League discussed a park. In 1914 they chose a Committee for Town Improvement and asked the town what it expected of them in developing a park. They were already collecting a Park Fund. In the spring of 1914 Alderman John O'Neil, street commissioner, was in charge of producing a park from the ash piles and other rubbish. The land south of the bridge was leased by the State to the Village indefinitely.

By May 6 grading had been finished by and on May 13 the name Riverside Park had been formed from marble pieces from the old canal bridge and placed at the north side of the park. By 20 May the fountain was brought from the high school where it had

been placed from in front of the flatiron building, taken down to build Lock 12, by Edwin Hall. By 2 May trees had been planted. On 6 June two flower urns were brought from Rev. Charles E. Hamilton's lawn on South Canal Street, the present Nash home. (One has been destroyed.) For years the Civic League kept them filled with flower with Conrad Bergmeier's advice. The League supplied benches for the park even to seeing about winter storage. On 1 July a flag pole 52 feet long with ten inch copper ball was raised at the north end of the park.

On 4 July the park was dedicated. The flag was raised by Miss Catherine Eights Boies Potter, daughter of Admire Potter. The affair was arranged by the Spanish War Veterans. Rev. Hamilton was the speaker. He made a special tribute to the Civic Improvement League who had awakened the citizens to sense of civic pride. They can point with pride to the beautiful Riverside Park. A newspaper advertisement of Fred W. Goodrich said that pictures of the dedication and flag rising were available. Has anyone seen any of these?

Four years later the boulder project for the park was taken up by the Civic League.

The Whitehall Independent

August 28, 1985

The Parks

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Another segment of the Early Action Project of the Urban Cultural Park Plan has been completed. In both parks, Riverside and Skenesborough Museum, sixteen trees of fair size have been planted. These flowering crab, silver queen maple, birch, and little leaf linden are a most welcome replacement of the many trees that had to be taken down.

Skenesborough Museum Park is fairly new in name, having been called that when the Museum came into existence in 1959. It holds the picnic shelters so widely used by local people and tourists alike. There also is the hull of the TICONDEROGA of the War of 1812 raised from East Bay. Riverside Park dates back to 1914 right after the completion of the Champlain Barge Canal, when the canal was set eastward into Wood Creek.

Riverside Park was sponsored by the women of the Civic Improvement League dedicated to the improvement of Whitehall, who were "dedicated to dignify that portion of land south of Saunders Street Bridge and west of the recently opened canal." The area had been left an ash heap from the construction of that canal. The League was aided by the Village Trustees, especially Alderman John O'Neil who was chair of the Street Committee. The land of the park was leased to the Village indefinitely and under the name of Riverside Park. This name was placed at the north end on the embankment that leads up to Saunders Street; the stones used being white marble broken out of the abutment of the old canal bridge by John Mansfield. William Edmonds made the letter forms and Alderman John O'Neil placed them in the forms. The ground was leveled for grass seed to be sown. About seventy trees were planted and a water pipe laid.

In May the fountain had been placed in the park. This fountain first stood in front of the Village building at the head of Broad Street. When Central School was built, it was purchased by Edwin Hall and stood on the grounds of that school.

When ground was broken at the school in 1914, it was moved to the park. Walks were also laid at this time, with Mr. O'Neil supervising.

By June 2, handsome stone flower vases were placed. These had been on the property of Benjamin Lackey and on South Canal Street (Broadway, Nash home). By 1913 this place was purchased by Reverend Charles E. Hamilton and he presented them to the park. Unfortunately only one remains.

By June 6 a forty foot flag pole was donated by R.O. Hays, cashier of the new National Bank. It was located at the north end of the park by the wall to be presented by the G.A.R. Veterans when Colonel Carrington represented them with a flag 3 by 12 feet.

The Whitehall Independent

April 1, 1987

The Civic Improvement League and the Boulder

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In May 1919 the Civic Improvement League received a letter from the Business Men's Association by President Lamberton asking that they raise \$100 toward a bronze memorial tablet. It was to be placed in Riverside Park to honor the service men.

A year and a half went by before the Civic League minutes showed a memorial in the park was a subject of discussion, 11 October 1921. A few months later, 14 February 1922, definite action was taken by gaining information about a bronze tablet. It was learned that the design they chose would cost \$120. Evidently this price seemed too high for a request went out for someone to donate a boulder and one on Edwin Hall's mansion grounds on West Mountain was investigated.

As usual, a boulder fund was established and letters were dispatched to granite dealers in the area. On 10 January 1923, a special meeting was held with Temple Brothers in Rutland. Their offer was to attend to all the work and have the boulder set in the park by Memorial Day. To accomplish this project the Civic League members asked prominent citizens to serve: Rev. Berger of the Presbyterian Church, William Inglee of the Whitehall Chronicle, Dr. Falkenbury, and John Doren of Doren Brothers.

In memory of those Who made the Supreme Sacrifice And In Honor of Those who Served 1917 World War 1918

During the early months of its life the Civic League held meetings twice a month. Soon the decision was made that the first meeting have a business agenda and the second primarily a social one. This led to the variety of literary and informational programs that the League became noted for.

In May of its first year a badge of identification was chosen. It was a blue ribbon with the words "Civic League of Whitehall" which was sold for ten cents and worn on public appearances. The color of the letters was not given. (I wonder if any of these are in existence?) Over the years a great number of Whitehallers belonged to the Civic Improvement League.

To pay for the boulder the Civic League conducted a house to house drive (\$273.10) and used Tag Day money (\$135). At the Memorial Day services the granite boulder was unveiled and presented to the Village of Whitehall by President C. H. Souter of the Civic League.

The next idea explored was to have the names of service men put on the tablet, providing the list could be obtained from the Whitehall Chronicle. It must be it couldn't be readily obtained or would be too cumbersome, for the tablet in the park, flanked by evergreens and guns, reads: ???

The Whitehall Times
July 30, 1987

Good Idea?
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

On 12 November 1915 the "knockers hammer" was buried in Riverside Park. The handle was completely covered so that there would be no digging it up. The purpose of this procedure was to end criticism of the village government and anyone else with whom the mourners did not agree. There was a parade with Company I. Several organizations with a band were at the internment of the large wooden hammer. Reverend Hamilton was the speaker for the occasion.

Philip Skene

The Whitehall Times
June 9, 1977

Skene's Great-grandfather
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



SKENE'S GREAT-GRANDFATHER. John Skene of Halyards, 1653-1707. He married Mary McGill. Portrait was painted by Sir Godfrey Kneller, who was court painter to the Scotts

The Whitehall Times
April 17, 1975

Early Skenesborough
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

What did our early village look like? This is doubtless repetition but we can imagine better if there is some guide. Whitehall Landing was not the site of dwellings gathered around the falls as, one would think. By the falls were gathered the industries of Philip Skene.

On the west side of Wood Creek, which was a navigable stream, was the fort on the hill. Below that were the iron foundry, saw mill, and various storehouses. Across the creek was a wooden bridge just above the falls.

On the east side of the creek was a saw mill and opposite the fort, the British type house and barn called Skenesborough House and Skene's barn. This description comes from references used so admirably in Curtis' **Kathi of Skenesborough**. Look in the National Bank to see the painting of Bertrand Fafard which carries out this description. The settlers' houses were spread out farther south and east of the falls.

The Whitehall Times **June 30, 1977**

Burgoyne in Skenesborough **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Burgoyne arrived in Skenesborough 6 July on the warship ROYAL GEORGE accompanied by the warship INFLEXIBLE. In his fleet were the former ships of the first United States Navy captured by Carlton in 1776 row galley WASHINGTON, cutter LEE, and gundelo JERSEY, and hundreds of bateaux.

On 8 July these gunboats were sent back to Ticonderoga carrying as much of the soldiers and officers extra materials as they could spare. Burgoyne issued orders for Skene and Reidesel to issue Oaths of Allegiance to the people in surrounding areas at Castle. 13 July the bateaux kept were drawn over the carrying place from the harbor into Wood Creek. On this day also the orders for clearing Wood Creek and the path south were given.

On 20 July 200 Ottawas came into camp that surpassed "all others (Indians) I had seen in size and appearance, painted in the usual style, decked out with a variety of birds and skins of animals." They brought toys which the soldiers were eager to purchase. Burgoyne was not happy with the Indians supposed to be under his control. They did capture many of the Rebels, but they were apt to disappear at the moments of fighting.

Delighted with his quick military successes, Burgoyne soon settled into his friend's home, the great stone Skenesborough house of Philip Skene. One wonders what Skene's feelings were to see his prize stone barn loop holed for military protections and his crops trampled.

From these comfortable quarters Gentlemen Johnny issued his plans and orders. The church service and the feu de joie were among the first activities. The forces coming in from Hubbardton had had no rations for untold hours. This was a wet and hot summer. His men needed horses and oxen that did not arrive from Canada. Luckily he had the pastures and other assets of Skene's lands.

Back in England Burgoyne had gained the impression that many of the provincials here would be Loyalists and would appear if assured of protection from their neighbors. His decision had been made to go south from Skenesborough which meant that the road and Wood Creek had to be, cleared of the trees the Americans began immediately to fell. He made excursions of inspection along the route. It could be he

was lulled into a leisurely way of warfare because he had not witnessed the kind of war the Americans waged. His invasion so far had been so easy and so quick.

Burgoyne was a lover of the good life. His splendid uniforms, his wine cellar, his provisions, and other necessities filled many carts, even though he had ordered even the officers to send back to Ticonderoga all their unnecessary trappings and supplies. He had enough wine to send to Reidesel at Castleton four dozen bottles of port and the same of madeira.

Burgoyne liked good fellowship, good living, and good drinking and Skenesborough House was doubtless the scene of gay dinners with his officers at night such as Madame Reidesel described occurring at Schuylerville. Implied in accounts of Burgoyne's life are the lady guests he entertained but records of the march including the gay dinners mention only the beautiful and gay wife of his commissioner who was with him still at Schuylerville, according again to Madame Reidesel.

By 22 July the creek had been cleared and the troops were ready to move south, the boats going up Wood Creek and the army moving along the cleared path toward Fort Anne, starting 23 July with Burgoyne leaving 25 July.

The Whitehall Times

June 30, 1977

Burgoyne's Plans for Invasion of New York

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

This is in general a summary of the 1777 invasion of Lt. General John Burgoyne through the Champlain and to the Hudson Valley. It is intended to give the prelude to action in Skenesborough and the war there. Events in the harbor at this time complete the story of our first United States fleet that was begun and ended in the same harbor.

The Plan

Although many British statesmen did not favor a war with their American colony, a military plan for a 1777 campaign was made, Burgoyne's advice was important as he had spent some time in 1776 around Boston and northern Lake Champlain.

The plan was simple. Burgoyne would go up Lake Champlain and down the Hudson River to Albany. Colonel Barry St. Leger would go down the Mohawk Valley and General Henry Clinton would ascend the Hudson River to meet him there. This would effectively divide communication in the colony and the war would be ended. If Burgoyne had not been delayed by transportation problems, if St. Leger had not retreated before Benedict Arnold, if General William Howe had ordered Clinton up the Hudson River, all might have gone well.

In Canada

Burgoyne arrived in Quebec 6 May 1777 on the APOLLO and took command of the British army from the capable General Guy Carlton 10 May. The hired German forces under General Frederick Reidesel had been training in Quebec during the winter in American ways of fighting.

When Burgoyne took command of the army he issued his first manifesto, listing at the beginning all of his various titles. He explained this action was to give security to the provincials, to protect them if they would stay quietly in their homes and not destroy their cattle or provisions, nor break up roads and bridges. He promised pay for all provisions, but he threatened them with the fierce Indian action if they did not obey.

This proclamation was ridiculed by the Americans, even by General George Washington who issued a counter proclamation.

This British army was unexcelled. Its staff of officers were outstanding in military skill — William Phillips, Simon Fraser, Johann Specht, Heinrich Breymann, Robert Kingston, Lord Balcarras, John Ackland, Frederick Baum.

Ready to start from St. Johns 10 June were 3252 British, 3007 Germans, 145 Canadians and 500 Indians.

Up the Lake

After a dinner of all the officers the evening before, this great armada started up Lake Champlain on 13 June. The Indians led with 20 to 30 men in their big war canoes. The first British brigade followed with the gunboats in front of the war ships ROYAL GEORGE and INFLEXIBLE towing booms. The three generals; Burgoyne, Phillips and Reidesel — rode in their separate pinnaces. Then came the second British brigade, followed by the German brigade. Last came the camp workers and the camp followers which included the wives of the professional soldiers, a custom at that time.

This great invasion force traveled with great precision, about 20 miles a day, each section occupying at night the orderly camp left by its predecessor at day break. Stops along the way were necessary to wait for the artillery to catch up.

At the Bouquet Ferry, near Willsboro, 20 June, 400 Ottawas under Chevalier St. Luck and Charles DeLaglade joined the force. At a council meeting Burgoyne addressed them. He asked them to strike at the common enemy but not to harm aged men, women, children, or prisoners. He promised pay for prisoners taken but would demand account for every scalp, but said they could retaliate barbarity. By this speech, although the terms were agreed to by the Indians, Burgoyne had "let loose the dogs of war".

By 29 June the armada had reached Crown Point. At this place Philip Skene from England. Andrew was already there under Fraser. They guided the army up the narrow lake and were hosts at Skenesborough House later.

On 30 June Burgoyne issues General Orders. He declared his purpose was to fight for the king, for the constitution of Great Britain, and for the relief of the oppressed Americans. Here he used those fatal words — fatal for his campaign — THIS ARMY MUST NOT RETREAT. Then he set sail for Ticonderoga.

The Americans at Ticonderoga

Meanwhile General Arthur St. Clair was given command at Fort Ticonderoga as late as 12 June. Some attempt had been made to strengthen the position there. An outpost at Mount Hope had been made. Across the lake from Fort Ticonderoga Mount Independence, so named in 1776, had been fortified with an eight pointed star fort of palisading with a strong stone breastwork and redoubts with cannon. On the west was a bay called Skenesborough Landing where were stationed the remaining vessels of the first United States fleet — schooners LIBERTY and REVENGE, sloop ENTERPRISE, row galleys TRUMBULL and GATES. Gundelo NEW YORK [SUCCESS] had been destroyed here by exploding ammunition.

Between the two forts across the narrow lake were booms of logs and a heavy chain. The chain links were constructed at Skenesborough. One section is now on display in the New York State ??????? used later in the chain across the Hudson River at West Point.

There were not nearly enough troops to man Fort Ticonderoga; even the abas were had been burned for firewood during the winter. Because of the activity of the Indian scouts of the British St. Clair had no knowledge of what or where the enemy troops were. Washington did not have enough troops to send aid. Congress was too much involved in political action to give realistic assistance.

The British at Ticonderoga

The British force appeared before Ticonderoga 1 July with Phillips' men on the west side and the Germans under Reidesel and the British under Fraser east of Mount Independence.

Phillips soon occupied Mount Hope and the Americans there and at the saw mills retreated to Lake George. Overlooking Fort Ticonderoga was the 800 foot Sugar Loaf Hill. In 1776 (Johnathan Trumbull, Benedict Arnold, and Anthony Wayne had scaled the hill and even threw cannon balls up its slope to prove its strategic importance but General Horatio Gates and other officers had laughed at their evidence and advice.

The British immediately saw the advantage of the position and on the night of 4 July scaled the hill and carried up cannon. Although this action was carried on secretly, an Indian struck a fire and revealed their position. Knowing they could not hold their position, during the day of 5 July the Americans planned their retreat.

The Retreat of the Americans

In the early hours of 6 July Colonel Long evacuated the hospital, placed supplies, and ammunition on the five United States Navy ships and 200 bateaus and set up the narrow lake for Skenesborough. The force at Mount Independence started by way of Vermont and were followed by the Americans from Fort Ticonderoga across the bridge. Unfortunately a house was fired at Mount Independence and the British were warned of the retreat. Fraser's forces were ordered after them and Reidesel's men were ordered to follow. Four Americans had been left to fire the bridge after the last Americans had

crossed to prevent the British from following. They were found sleeping away the effects of several bottles of spirits.

Up the Lake to Skenesborough

Dr. Anburey told the story of the trip up the narrow lake. It was a brilliant day. The time was spent in drinking the medicinal wine in the stores, and singing. Not dreaming the British could break the boom, they leisurely disembarked at Skenesborough only to be unpleasantly amazed to see the Royal George and the Inflexible appear. Some of the sick and wounded fled up Wood Creek. Other soldiers ran up the path toward Fort Ann.

Burgoyne's forces had made quick work in abolishing the boom and following the Americans. In Skenesborough Harbor Captain John Carter's artillery after a short battle blew up the last ships of the first United States Navy. Sloop ENTERPRISE, schooner REVENGE and row galley GATES loaded with ammunition were blown up and sank about where Lock 12 is. Schooner LIBERTY and row galley TRUMBULL were captured and used many years by the British. When Lock 12 was constructed guns from probably GATES were raised and kept a while in the Masonic Temple before being presented to the Burleigh Corps. They are at present on the Armory lawn.

Hubbardton

On his retreat toward Skenesborough, but eventually Rutland, St. Clair left Seth Warner with troops as a rear guard at Hubbardton with orders not to engage the enemy. But Warner fought a battle on 7 July. The Americans were winning at first but their ammunition gave out. At the same time Reidesel's Germans came on singing their mournful hymns to make it appear they were a great force. The Americans dissolved into the forest to meet again weeks later near Bennington. Nathan Hale was slightly wounded in this battle as was Andrew Philip Skene.

On 8 July Reidesel's forces marched to Skenesborough via Castleton, followed 9 July by Fraser's men arriving 10 July in Skenesborough.

Philip Skene in 1777

Philip Skene, exchanged as a prisoner of the Americans in 1776, had returned to London. Thinking he could assist Lt. General Burgoyne in the invasion from the north, Skene came back to America. He caught up with Burgoyne at Crown Point where his son Andrew was under the command of Fraser. Here Philip became a volunteer in the British army.

He arrived at Skenesborough 6 July on the ROYAL GEORGE with Burgoyne. 8 July Burgoyne made Skenesborough House his headquarters and there issued his daily orders of the church service and the feu de joie which Whitehall is reenacting this weekend.

Besides occupying Skene's lands, the troops on both sides of the harbor around the carry at the falls used Skene's fodder, horses, and oxen. They looted his great

barn. He lost a large amount of lumber sent from the mill to Ticonderoga and the saw mill at Fort Ann which was destroyed so it would not fall into American hands.

On 10 July Burgoyne issued a proclamation to the surrounding towns asking that they send ten deputies to meet Skene at Castleton 15 July. On 12 July he appointed Skene a commissary, to administer the Oath of Allegiance and to grant Certificates of protection to the inhabitants of the area who would send in their horses and oxen and remain quietly in their homes.

With Reidesel's assistance 400 oaths were administered and white feathers issued to be worn in the hats. Some of these were really Loyalists but most were Americans sent by Seth Warner to spy them out. In spite of the promise of protection these Loyalists were sought out and materially and bodily injured.

Skene remained in Skenesborough after the British force moved south, intending to return to Canada as he was still Surveyor of His Majesty's Forests, but Burgoyne sent for him to help in the raid toward Bennington. This raid had been suggested by Reidesel while in Skenesborough but Burgoyne delayed. In the foray Skene had horses shot under him as he was attempting to get ammunition for the cannons. He told Baum that the shirt-sleeved men coming into camp were provincials who were for the cause of the King. But they were the men who had falsely taken the Oaths of Allegiance.

Back at Saratoga environs Skene advised Burgoyne to retreat while the way north was still open to him. He was very much opposed to the ???????????? last, "A poor follower of the British Army."

Again he was a prisoner but as a private citizen he was allowed to go to Cambridge in his own way, where he stayed until 1778, arriving in England a month after Burgoyne.

Rattlers

In many accounts of our early history rattlesnakes are mentioned as being prevalent. In a collection of Letters from Brunswick and Hessian Officer, information about these is given in this area. "Many rattlesnakes are to be found in the woods in this vicinity, and we have killed a number of them. Their bite is one of the most poisonous known. Death invariable follows within twelve hours if the proper antidotes are not immediately taken, or unless the flesh around the bite is not at once cut out. As soon as a snake has been killed, some of the habitants present lose no time in cutting off the head and part of the tail and burying them in the ground, as they believe that a pure and clear stream would be poisoned were the severed parts thrown in it. On one occasion they begged of us a snake which one of our party had killed, and made of it a very palatable soup. In all seriousness, however, even the English prefer it to the best eel, especially if made into a soup, which is said to have a delicious flavor. These delicacies are extremely welcome in the kitchen of General Burgoyne. It may be I am prejudiced, but none of it for me, thanks.

The Army in Skenesborough

On 6 July 1777 part of the British army arrived at Skenesborough by ship. By 10 July more had arrived from the east via Hubbardton and Castleton. For almost three

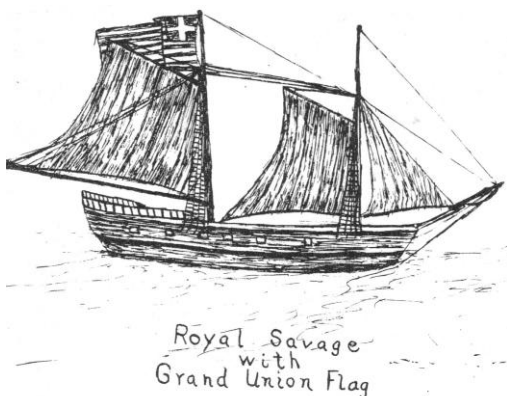
weeks they occupied Skene's land around the harbor and the falls. On the west side of Wood Creek the British Right Brigade extended from the rock near the woods to the fort. The Dragoons of Reidesel, the German leader, secured the flank in the height of the wood. The second British Brigade occupied the fort and five companies of the 24th Regiment camped in back of the fort as reserves.

On the east side of the creek Skene's long stone barn, one of his prize possessions was spoiled by loop holing. Specht's Brigade formed on the right of Skenesborough House nearer the lake and extended on the left to the Brigade of Specht. Both of these commands maintained a piquet or guard in the barn and on top of Skene Mountain another piquet of 100 men. The fort and the fortified barn were to be used as places to receive prisoners.

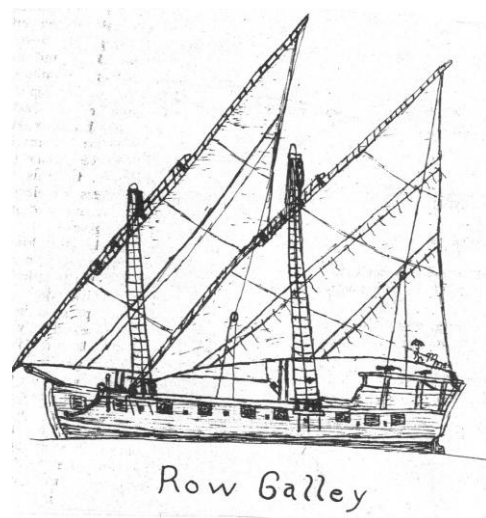
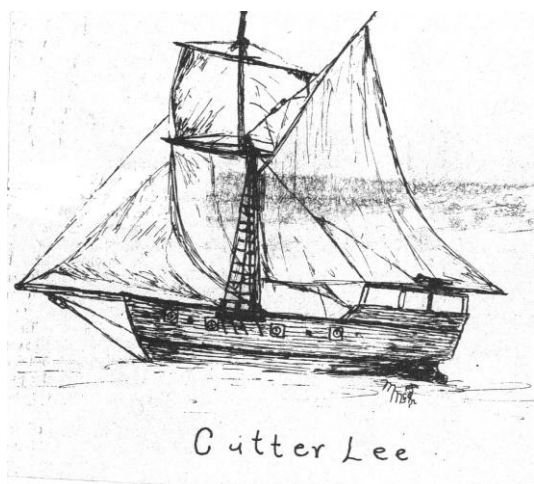
On 10 July Fraser's troops came in from Hubbardton and took the right wing, while the German troops went up East Bay to Carver's Falls where the Hesse Hanau already were located. Some continued to Castleton. The Brunswick troops of Reidesel encamped on the Castleton River. The Hessians cut a road to the Poultney River where it joins the Castleton River and built a bridge across it. The reasons for this construction were to prevent communication between Fort No. 4 and Albany by way of Castleton, to afford protection to the loyal inhabitants, to frighten the disloyal, and to protect the hospital at Hubbardton.

On 23 July Fraser with the advance corps marched for Fort Anne. On the 24th the 43rd Shropshire Regiment of Foot moved out; on the 25th General Orders were beaten, the tents were struck and loaded into the bateaus and the troops were marched for Fort Anne which they reached two days later, a distance of fourteen miles. On the 24th the Hessians marched in from Castleton to the Landing Place and on the 25th to Skenesborough and the next day on after the British. About 150 men were left in Skenesborough with Major Irving.

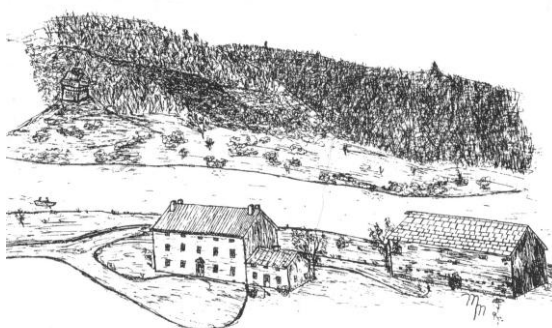
The copied sketches are originals done by Michael McCasland, great nephew of Town Historian Doris B. Morton



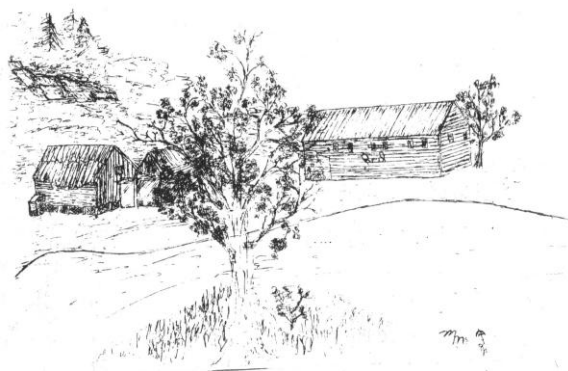
This example of a Grand Union Flag is on display at Mc Donald's (kb)



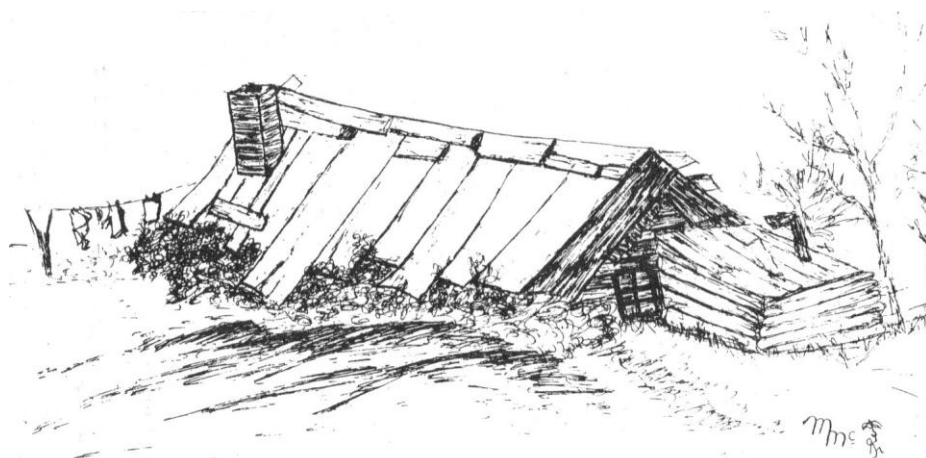
Views of Skenesborough drawn by Archibald Robertson



Skenesborough House and barn opposite the fort

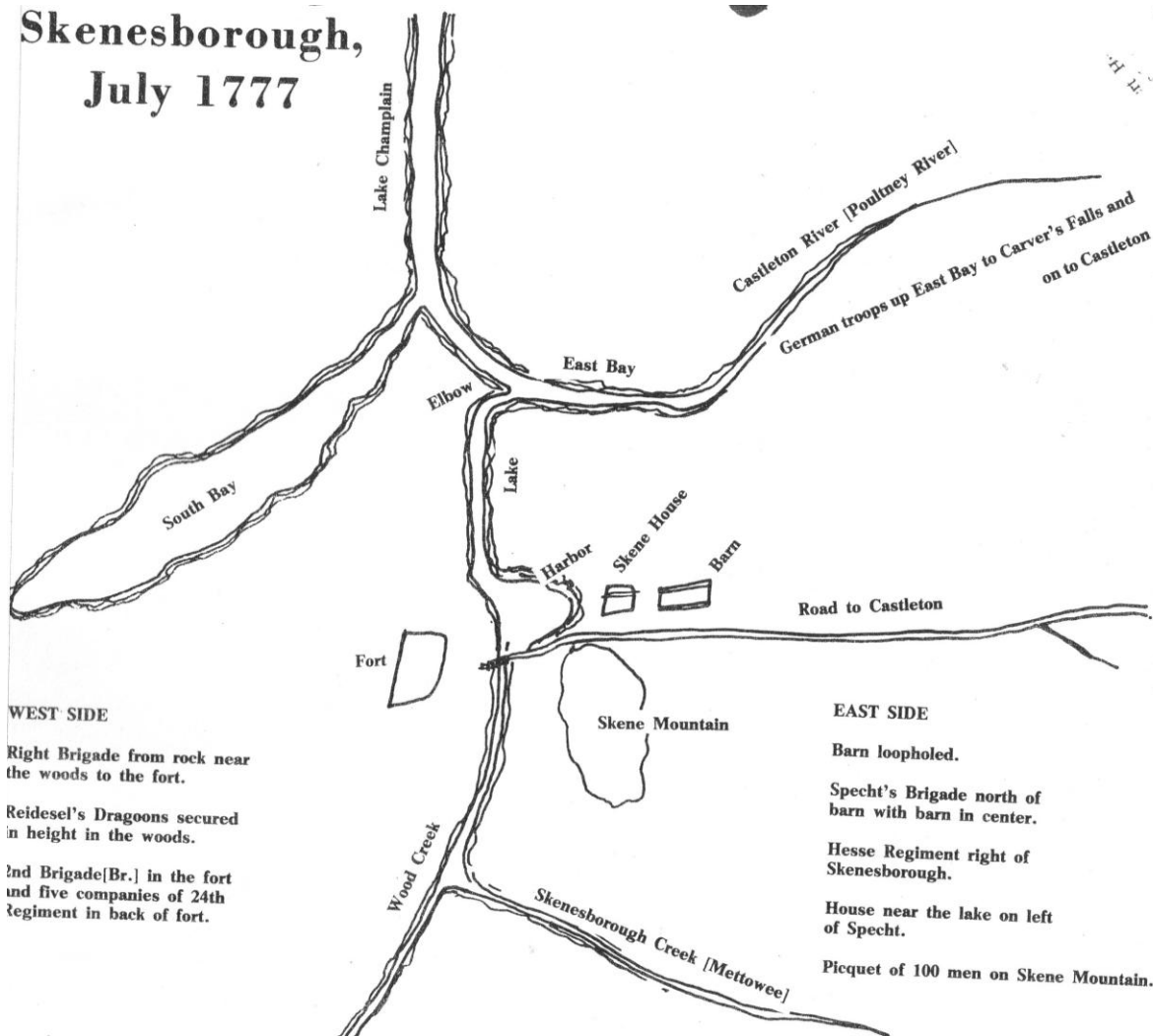


Robert Gordon's Red Barn



Hobb's Log Cabin
Site of E. W. Hall's Residence

Skenesborough, July 1777



with the labor of his Negroes (12), his settlers + discharged soldiers, he built "a saw-mill + a grist-mill at the falls on Wood creek, + erected for himself a stone mansion about thirty by forty feet in size, two + a half stories high, + of great solidity, where he lived in a baronial sort of way, surrounded by his black servants... This mansion stood fronting Wood creek, on a site now partially or entirely occupied by the roadway of Williams street, + near the residence of the late Joseph Tillson," pp. 473-474 ~~p. 474~~

~~same~~ [he also erected on west side of Wood creek, a rude furnace for ore smelting], 473

CRISFIELD, Johnson (1878?)(ND)
History of Washington County New York 1837-1878,
Everts + ENSIGN: Philadelphia, PA.

Joseph Tillson + wife Anna (Chaplin) Tillson
circa 1800-1850, whose son was Nathan T. Tillson
of Division Street, born 1813. worked in transportation.

The Whitehall Independent April 29, 1987

The Skene Keystone Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Bits of authentic history that correct earlier impressions are found in many places, usually unexpectedly. One was the personal knowledge about the Keystone of Philip Skene's house which was on the mantle of the Masonic Temple (now found at Skenesborough Museum kb). How it happened to be in the University of Rochester was a puzzle.

After I gave my first paper on Philip Skene in 1947 before the Civic Improvement League, Mrs. Harriet Bartholomew was asked to "not let Philip Skene rest" as she

phrased it. Here is the "eye witness" story of the stone as it was copied in the minutes of the Civic League.

The house and barn of Philip Skene were destroyed in the raid of 1780 by a party that came from Canada. What happened to all those building stones of two large structures is anyone's guess at present, but one of them is accounted for. The first Trinity Church was erected in 1837 on the site of the present Masonic Temple at the corner of Division and Church streets. In the foundation the Keystone with Philip's and Katharine's initials, P. K. S., was used as a cornerstone. In 1847 the First Baptist Church secured this building and 43 years later it burned, in 1874.

The Keystone was saved from fire and placed in the vault of the National and Commercial Bank whose president was A.H. Griswold, one of Whitehall's outstanding business men. The building is now the Northern Insuring office. It remained there until 1890 when Rollin Cooke, another businessman, took it to the University of Rochester. Several of his family members had attended this institution. The Masonic Temple was constructed on the church site in 1907. At this time Charles Broughton was to join Phoenix Lodge. Since he was a brother of Mrs. Rollin Cooke, it was deemed a good time to recover the Keystone. The three "conspirators" who planned the return of the stone were Dr. E. T. Horton, Hermon Sullivan, and A. D. Bartholomew all who had an interest in Whitehall history.

The Keystone was placed on the mantle in the basement of the Masonic Temple "exactly where it had been in the church". When the Temple was reconstructed, the stone was placed upstairs on the south side of the Lodge Room nearly over the site of the former corner stone. This Keystone is one of the few bits of Skene history in Whitehall.

The Whitehall Times October 4, 1973

Location of Skene's House and Barn Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The location of Skene's house and barn has been a subject of much conjecture and friendly argument over the years. Some have said it was on the site of the old library and McFarren boarding house on Williams Street with the barn on the site of Notre Dame, land owned by Melancton Wheeler. Others today say it is Skene Manor, built in 1874-76. Melancton Wheeler also owned land north of Skene Mountain.

A deed in Albany Library manuscript room locates a place around the mountain by means of "Skene's ruins" A map of 1777 of the "Country in which the Army under Lt. Gen. Burgoyne acted in the campaign of 1777" shows the two buildings north of the road that lead to Fair Haven. Another map of the "Northern Department of North America" has a small building on it labeled Skene House in the same general area.

Recently Frederick Palmer a surveyor of Whitehall spent over a year examining the papers which could give any clues and researched the topography on foot and his car. In fact, so interested was he in the search that his wife said, "When the family goes for a ride we always know we're going to end up looking at the falls and surrounding area."

This is Fred's report:

**CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LOCALE OF
MAJOR PHILIP SKENE'S RESIDENCE:**

1. Scales on old maps are too large.
2. Topography on old maps is not clear and in the critical areas, such as the "Falls," the topography has changed enough to distort any relationship to present day landmarks.
3. Actual physical remnants are not evident.
4. This present hypothesis is based on the following:
 - A. Actual existing deeds, maps and manuscripts made available through Doris Morton, town historian, and other reliable sources (village, town, county, state records, etc.).
 - B. Attempted correlation of topography of Skene's day to present; which is, at best, a poor one.
 - C. Existing physical evidence such as ledges, springs and roads.
 - D. Witness of senior citizens.
 - E. Intuition.

Relying on the above considerations which are poor data, I conclude that the most probable area would be on the east side of North Williams Street, at a relatively high elevation, and at a northeasterly direction of approximately 660 feet from the area of the Lock 12 Bridge. In this general area there are several plateaus which would meet the criteria of Skene's residence. In conclusion, what I have accomplished after better than a year's research is an educated guess.

It is hoped that some other interested party will make another investigation, independent of this meager attempt, and discover some scientific basis for saying, "Philip Skene slept here!"

The experience has been an interesting and enlightening one and I am grateful for having had the opportunity to do it.

Frederick L. Palmer

**The Whitehall Times
November 29, 1979**

**Christfield Johnson's History of Washington County
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

A reprint of Christfield Johnson's History of Washington County, 1878 is being distributed by the Washington County Historical Society in exact size and content.

This book is the result of a monumental labor, concerning the history of the county from Pre-Revolutionary days to 1878, with a detailed section for each of the 17 towns.

Ever jealous of Whitehall's place in history, I am listing some errors stated in the early history of the town. This is not to depreciate this great work of Christfield Johnson, but to add information unavailable to him at the time of his writing. Even today

the story of Philip Skene has not been told fully. Its sources are widely scattered in archives of several countries and states in individual collections of official papers.

Page 473: "A half pay English officer Major Philip Skene." Skene wanted to stay in his colony at the head of Lake Champlain rather than to go back to Ireland with his Inniskillin Regiment. On 4 December, 1769, he sold his commission to Lt. Lawrence Parsons of the Tenth Foot. This buying and selling of commissions was common at that time. Another Philip Skene retired from the 72nd Regiment.

The title, Major, was granted him on two occasions when he was appointed Major of Brigade of the Northern Army on 31 July 1759 at Crown Point and on August, 1762 at Havannah.

Page 473: "He (Skene) entered on this domain in 1761. In his first memorial to King George, via General Amherst 10 November 1759, Skene requested a patent to land he had already settled.

Page 473 Footnote: "From the letters P.K.S. in the stone over the door of his dwelling, it has been inferred that he had a middle name beginning with K; but he signed himself "Philip Skene," and was so designated in all his records. Skene's wife's name was Katharine. That accounts for the K. Skene's middle name was Wharton after a friend of his father, but Skene remarked that he did not use his middle name.

Page 473: "By courtesy he was designated as 'Governor Skene,' probably on account of a project which he was, known to have obtained the erection of Northern New York and Vermont into a separate royal province, under himself as chief magistrate."

The original manuscript of George III appointing Philip Skene "Lieutenant Governor of our forts at Crown Point and at Ticonderoga" on 28 January 1775 is in the Public Record Office in London. On 16 February he received an additional appointment of "Inspector into the state of all lands not claimed as private property" in Quebec and New York laying on Lake Champlain. Skene had gone to London in 1774 and returned to America in 1775.

(To be continued)

The Whitehall Times December 6, 1979

Christfield Johnson's History of Washington County (2) Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Page 473, Philip Skene "erected for himself a stone mansion about 30 by 40 feet in size, two and a half stories high." Skenesborough House was a typical English mansion house 56 x 46 feet with an ell 30 x 20 feet, two and a half stories high. The keystone over the entrance had the initials PKS (Philip, Katharine Skene) and the date 1770. This keystone was used in the basement wall of the first Episcopal Church at the corner of Division and present Broadway. The Baptist Church, which purchased the early one, burned in 1874 and the keystone was placed for safekeeping in the vault of the

First National bank at the northwest corner of Division and present Main streets. It now rests in the Masonic temple, on the site of those two early churches.

Page 473 footnote: "these (two patents) together covered all of the town of Whitehall except the McIntosh grant of about 4,000 acres on the east side and also embraced the northern extremity of the present town of Hampton." On 2 May 1764 Lt. Wm. McIntosh had been granted as a reduced officer 2,000 acres of land which lay to the north of the Little patent. Philip Skene bought it on 11 February 1773. It, added to Andrew's grant of 2,000 on 22 August 1769 as a reduced lieutenant of the 72nd Regiment, made 4,000 acres of Skene land outside the Little Patent. These titles were listed in the Book of the Council of New York and the schedule of Philip Skene's lands.

Pages 473-474: "The mansion stood fronting the creek on a site now partially or entirely occupied by the roadway of Williams Street, and near the residence of the late Joseph Jillson." There is debate about the location of Skene's house or Skenesborough House. It is described as opposite the fort and 40 rods from the falls of Wood Creek. This position is shown on a map of the Northern Department of North America. It shows a building labeled Skene's house facing the east side of the harbor. Another map, a soldier's freehand sketch from the Documentary History of New York, shows the house located at the same place facing the lake. A map in the (Manuscript Room in the Albany State Library shows the "ruins" of Skene's House on a lot north of Skene Mountain.

When the British troops were quartered in Skenesborough, one section was placed to the north with the newly fortified barn in its center; another formed on the right of Skenesborough House nearer the lake and extended on the left to the first one. It hardly seems possible these would be placed on the side of a mountain.

An older citizen of Whitehall reported the house was on the south side of present Burt Hill with the barn in back where the lookout point could be the lake and would be within the description of "opposite the fort." This is approximately the location suggested by surveyor Fred Palmer who spent a year's study of the terrain and maps. This location would be also near the open land back of the mountain for the grazing of Skene's animals.

The Whitehall Times December 13, 1979

Christfield Johnson's History of Washington County (3) Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Page 474: "It (Skene's barn) stood at a spot embraced in the property of Judge Wheeler on Skene Street above Wheeler Avenue. It was 130 feet in length and the walls were pierced, evidently for musketry, suggesting the idea of a place for refuge and defense in case of attack, though it may also have been used as a barn or stable."

Skene was very proud of his barn which in a letter to his agent in New York City 19 December 1770, "I have put the finishing strokes to my barn but was much embarrassed for want of nails." The barn stood in back of Skenesborough House. In his various memorials to the English government he described it as a stone building 134 feet

long without offices built at a cost of several hundred pounds. This building was made into a fortified post in 1777 for His Majesty's service with the British forces when Burgoyne was in Skenesborough and thus rendered useless. The material from which it was constructed as in Skene's words, "the prettiest blue stone you ever saw," which describes the limestone in the northeast part of the Town of Whitehall, east of Wood Creek.

Such a large structure was needed, 134 by 35 feet, for the blooded cattle and horses Skene raised for trade. Judge Melancthon Wheeler later owned land at the north of Skene's Mountain where the barn was located. It could have stood on his land. The barn was destroyed in March 1780 along with Skenesborough House and other buildings in the raid from Canada.

Page 474: "Accordingly on the 13th of May 1775, a party of volunteers, under command of Captain Herrick, marched to Skenesborough which they captured without opposition." Skenesborough was captured in the afternoon of 9 May 1775 in the first aggressive Revolutionary War action in New York State. Fort Ticonderoga was captured 10 May.

Page 474: Footnote contains the story of Mrs. Skene's coffin. This is a story that for some unknown reason, according to some historians, outlived its propaganda usefulness and is still repeated whenever Whitehall's history is related. The source of this story is a comment from British Lt. Digby's diary kept when he and his wife were in Skenesborough with Burgoyne's army in 1777. He told the story of the myth that was being circulated, but, what copiers forget to add, that it was propaganda intended to ruin Skene's reputation among his tenants.

Page 474: "His stone mansion at Skenesborough was destroyed by fire, kindled, as many said, by his own direction, to prevent it from falling into the hands of his foes." Skene was in England in 1780 when the building was destroyed. His son Andrew was still in British service in Canada at this time. He was with the Canadian force that raided Skenesborough and saw his old home destroyed.

Page 474: "The price paid for all the (confiscated) lands was 14 pounds 10 shillings, their first bid, there being no competition at the sale." This sum was the cost of surveying the lands by Alexander Webster. The Book of Forfeitures gives the sum of purchase for each of the lots sold. A part of the land, 35,000 acres, was sold for 20,729 pounds, a far cry from 14 pounds 10 shillings.

The Whitehall Times

January 3, 1980

Christfield Johnson's History of Washington County

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Page 474; Isaac Weld, Jr., made a tour of the United States and reported that Skenesborough was infested - with mosquitoes – "these insects were of a much larger size than any I ever saw else where' and their bite was uncommonly venomous. General Washington told me that he never was so much annoyed in any part of America as at

Skenesborough, for they used to bite through the thickest of boots.'" Other writers have written of the mosquito blight in Skenesborough, of the great swarms that bothered especially at night, but General Washington couldn't have spoken from personal experience for he did not visit this place on his northern trip. He went north by way of Lake George and returned south by way of Utica and Albany, according to the map of his journey.

Page 32; Mr. Johnson implied that Skenesborough was settled in 1761, the same year of Salem and Cambridge. But by November, 1759, Philip Skene had settled 30 families in the area at the head of Lake Champlain, attested by his letter of that date. He had already presented his memorial for the land to the King which was finally granted much later.

Page 40; This company (commanded by Capt. Herrick) "seized Major Skene's schooner and took it with them to Ticonderoga." This company did not go to Ticonderoga but remained in Skenesborough to plunder. Two days later, 11 May, Arnold's recruiters took the Skene family to Ticonderoga in the schooner.

The story of Skene's brown Spanish horse being used by Arnold at Saratoga has been discounted by Arnold's biographers.

Page 41; "(Skene's) property rapidly went to destruction." His lands were put in the hands of overseers by the Americans and the mills run.

One regrets that the papers used by May Belle Curtis in her novel "Kathy of Skenesborough" and sent to the people of Whitehall have disappeared and that Skene's personal papers brought with him from England were destroyed by his own hand in Philadelphia. Other papers are wide scattered, but at least one young historian of promise in New York State History department is also searching for material. Perhaps we will learn much more of Skene and Skenesborough in the not too far future.

The Whitehall Times July 10, 1980

Rev. Lewis Kellogg's History of Whitehall Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In the 26 May 1880 issue of The Whitehall Times, parts of the discourse entitled by its author "A Sketch of the History of Whitehall, Civil and Religious," were printed. The discourse was delivered 27 June 1847 by the Rev. Lewis Kellogg, a clergyman for ten years at that time in the First Presbyterian church.

An original copy of this paper is in the Historical Miscellany in Glens Falls library. Doubtless copies of it are in homes around Whitehall as it was printed in pamphlet form by the Whitehall Chronicle in 1847. My copy was furnished from the collection of Roxana Lewis Blackmore.

Mr. Kellogg used as his Bible text that Sunday, "Remember the days of old." He gave a history of Whitehall from his own research of available material and followed it with a history of the Presbyterian Church. As in all research, newer resources correct

older statements. Such as I have found I shall indicate — but all research on Whitehall history has not been completed or authenticated yet.

The discourse: A century ago the forest of this region echoed with the hostile cannon of the two most powerful nations of Europe. The ledge of this lake shore about a mile north of this place, well known by the designation of Put's Rock, is a memento of the carnage of that conflict.

To one seeking for accurate historical information, it is annoying to find such looseness in giving localities, scenery and facts, in some of our histories. For example, Cutler in his biography of Putnam says he was sent to South Bay at the foot of Lake George.

Mr. Headley, following doubtless other historians, says Putnam's position was on Wood Creek where it falls into the lake, but no such scenery as he describes is to be found on Wood Creek, at least for several miles from the lake, to say nothing of the ludicrous idea of 500 men gliding in canoes up to the falls at its mouth (accounts, report 500 men, 250 of whom were killed by Putnam's 35 men).

Some apology for the confusion which the reader of history will find in giving localities in this region exists in the fact that in early times the head of Lake Champlain was problematical. French historians fixed it at Ticonderoga; some others seem to have placed it at the head of South Bay, though I believe it has long been settled by geographers that the head of Lake Champlain is the harbor of Whitehall. (The affair at Put's Rock is related here.)

Within the memory of some of our citizens the whole brow of the hill east of Church Street (Church Street extended from High Street to a short distance south of the Trinity Church property) and south of High Street was enclosed by an embankment which formed the base of a picket fort said to have been constructed during that war (French and Indian War) (The height of the embankment and extent of the area can be seen in the eminence of the Presbyterian Church and the height west of Center Street). Within that enclosure was a huge block house erected near the close of the last century (It was here when Skene settled Skenesborough in 1759) and furnished with portholes.

The painting of the Harbor of Whitehall in 1819 by Hudson River painter Milbert shows the blockhouse on this site. Within that edifice some now among us have listened to orations on the anniversary of our independence, and occasionally to religious services on the Sabbath conducted by some traveling missionary. It stood on or near the spot now occupied by the residence of J. H. Boyd, Esq. (between High Street south to Division on the east side was a row of five houses. The second one south of High Street belonged to J. H. Boyd. The first town record shows that some of the early town meetings were held in the blockhouse.)

(The history goes on and I'll continue the relating of it from time to time.)

The Whitehall Times
August 7, 1980

Rev. Lewis Kellogg's History of Whitehall (cont.)
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In the 26 May 1880 issue of The Whitehall Times, parts of the discourse entitled by its author "A Sketch of the History of Whitehall, Civil and Religious," were printed. The discourse was delivered 27 June 1847 by the Rev. Lewis Kellogg, a clergyman for ten years at that time in the First Presbyterian Church. (This paragraph added for clarity of this article. kb)

At its close (the French and Indian War) this town was distributed in lots of 200 acres each as bounty land to soldiers who had served in that war. (These bounty lands were in the southwest area around Whitehall).

Philip K. Skene, an English major on half pay, it appears, purchased for a trifle a large number of these grants and to protect his title secured a Royal patent. (K is not Skene's middle initial. His middle name was Wharton, from a friend of his father's. Philip dropped the W. from his signature. He purchased four of these bounty lands from the soldiers. On one of them was his saw mill and blockhouse at Kane's Falls in Fort Ann). He effected a settlement at the head of navigation on Lake Champlain. This settlement he called Skenesborough which name it bore till after the war of the revolution.

He subsequently secured more military grants, and obtained a second patent. One of these covered 20,000 acres and the other 9,000. (Kellogg's note 1) The date of these patents I have not learned, and I am not able to say which was obtained first — together they embraced the whole of the present town of Whitehall except 4,000 acres on its eastern front.

(The land Philip secured by patent was 25,000 acres in a square on both sides of Wood creek in 1765; and 20,000 acres by patent northeast of the first patent, 9,000 of which became known as Skene's Little Patent in 1771. He bought McIntosh's 2,000 acres in 1773 to the northeast of the Little Patent; in 1769 his son Andrew was granted 2,000 acres in the same area. In 1771 also Philip was granted 3,000 acres in Westport and the Cheever Mines.)

Skene was a magistrate of the Crown and sometimes received the title of Governor. (Skene held no army office from the time he sold out of the British army. He was appointed Lieutenant Governor and Surveyor of His Majesty's Woods in January, 1775). He was the owner of several slaves (he sent 20 from Havannah to Skenesborough while he was in service there). His residence was a stone building nearly opposite the present dwelling of Joseph Jillson of Williams Street. He erected a stone edifice 130 feet long on the place now occupied by a garden of the family of the late Judge Wheeler. (According to early maps and descriptions Skene's house and barn were at north end of Skene Mountain. A map shows the barn in line with and back of the house). It was designed as a military garrison. (Skene designed it as a building for his blooded cattle and horses) but I am not aware that it was ever used as such unless during the short time Burgoyne's army lay here in 1777. (Burgoyne had it loop holed in 1777). Its walls, or portions of them, were standing within the recollection of many of our citizens. A

portion of it was appropriated to the storage of agricultural products, and it was called Skene's Barn. Near the east end was an arched gateway, the keystone of which may now be seen in the north basement wall of the Baptist Church. It bears the initials PKS and the date 1770. (The church burned in 1874 and the keystone, after some adventures, came to rest on the mantle of Phoenix F. & A.m. lodge. The letters stand for Philip, Katharine Skene).

The Whitehall Times

August 7, 1980

Rev. Lewis Kellogg's History of Whitehall (cont.)

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In the 26 May 1880 issue of The Whitehall Times, parts of the discourse entitled by its author "A Sketch of the History of Whitehall, Civil and Religious," were printed. The discourse was delivered 27 June 1847 by the Rev. Lewis Kellogg, a clergyman for ten years at that time in the First Presbyterian Church. (This paragraph added for clarity of this article. kb)

Skene, being well acquainted with the country, was sent out from Fort Edward with the detachment to Bennington and was in the battle of that place. (Skene had remained in Skenesborough planning to return to Canada but Burgoyne sent for him to help with the expedition.) I have been told by one who was there, that being personally known to many of the Americans, they made a great effort to capture him alive, though with no design of mercy. Kellogg's note; It is said that to effect that object they shot four horses from under him, but mounting a fifth, he made his escape, though the horse that bore him off soon died of his wounds.

The capture of Burgoyne at Schuylerville thoroughly crushed the power of the English and their adherents in this quarter. A detachment of the American forces was stationed at the head of Lake George whose scouts kept a regular watch over this place, but I am not aware that it was the scene of any important incident from this period to the close of the war.

Skene was obliged to return to England and his house was burnt, it is said, by his own direction to prevent it passing into the hands of the disloyal and rebellious Americans. (In 1780 a force from Canada surprised the small group of soldiers at Skenesborough House and destroyed it and the barn. Andrew was one of the white men.) Kellogg's note: Would it be very unreasonable to suppose it was done by Americans in commemoration of the service it had rendered their foe? (It was an American manned outpost for the protection of the land to the south).

His lands were confiscated and sold by the state. The purchasers were John Williams of this county, Joseph Stringham and John Murray. The latter two subsequently transferred their title to General Williams — M. Stringham in 1802 and Mr. Murray in 1803. (Other men bought land in Skenesborough besides John Williams, though he was the largest purchaser.)

In 1788 the Town of Whitehall was organized in the county that four years before had received the name of the immortal leader of our revolutionary struggle. There is one resident of our village who has been here since 1790, Gideon Tart, Esq. He thinks the number of houses at that time did not exceed eight — four having been added in the 13 years preceding. (It must be remembered that he is speaking of the area around the harbor.)

In 1812 this place again became the scene of military operations. The block house within the lines of the old fort was furnished with artillery and garrisoned for the defense of this place, and barracks were erected on the brow of the hill west of Church Street, portions of which are still standing. After the battle of Plattsburgh, Sept. 11, 1814, the naval armament of the lake, with the vessels captured from the British in that engagement, were anchored in our harbor. It was at that period that the entrenchments and magazine were constructed, the remains of which are still seen on the island a few hundred yards north of the village.

Reverend Kellogg continues a bit of the early history of the village and then gives a history of the First Presbyterian Church to 1847.

The Whitehall Times **August 21, 1980**

Rev. Lewis Kellogg's History of Whitehall (cont.) **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

In the 26 May 1880 issue of The Whitehall Times, parts of the discourse entitled by its author "A Sketch of the History of Whitehall, Civil and Religious," were printed. The discourse was delivered 27 June 1847 by the Rev. Lewis Kellogg, a clergyman for ten years at that time in the First Presbyterian Church. (This paragraph added for clarity of this article. kb)

On the 9th of May, 1775, the day on which Ethan Allen and his followers left Castleton to surprise and capture Ticonderoga, a small party of provincials from Connecticut (other colonies were involved) left the same place to secure the possession of Skenesborough. This was the first aggressive movement of the colonies in the Revolutionary War, being nearly six weeks before the Battle of Bunker Hill.

This place was secured without opposition. Skene was absent or concealed, and they pillaged his house for supplies.

Kellogg's note: Some accounts say he was captured. I think this is a mistake. (Skene was at sea coming back from England. His son, Andrew Philip, was captured.)

I have an account of the expedition from a son of one of the party, and with it the well known story that they found the body of Skene's wife in the cellar, which it was said to have been preserved by him for several years, to secure an annuity devised to her "while she remained above ground." Kellogg's note: I believe the substance of this story to be authentic and I notice it as an incident in the early history of the place illustrating human cupidity and fraud. (Skene's wife had been buried in a special vault in the cellar. This story of the reason for it is ridiculous and is refuted by a soldier who was in

Skenesborough at the time who stated that it was propaganda against Skene as he was so well liked by the people in the area.)

They took the body and buried it in the rear of the building. Skene retired to Canada and ultimately joined the army under Burgoyne. (Skene went on to Philadelphia where he was taken prisoner and went back to England as an exchange. He came back in 1777 to join Burgoyne at Crown Point but not as a member of the army.)

The possession of the place was indispensable to the command of the lake — an objective of great importance to the colonies — and Gen. Schuyler was ordered to repair the public works. A garrison was stationed here, and in 1776 vessels and bateaux were constructed and a little fleet fitted out in our harbor which was put under the command of Arnold. Kellogg's note: The fleet of Arnold on Lake Champlain when largest consisted of three schooners, two sloops, three galleys and eight bateaux, carrying in all 70 guns. With this he had a fierce encounter with the British in considerably larger force, under Valcour Island a little above Plattsburgh.

On the night of July 5, 1777, the Americans were driven from Ticonderoga. They placed their stores and baggage in Bateaux and sent them under a small convoy to this place. The embarkation was discovered by the lights of a building recklessly fired by the retreating troops, and the British dispatched two frigates and several gun boats in pursuit.

Gen. Mattoon, late of Amherst Mass., was a subaltern in the convoy and from him I have a minute account of the adventure. Before they reached the landing their pursuers were in sight and they hastily left their boats and dispersed. He thought the number of houses here at that time did not exceed four. One of these whose inmates appeared to be French; he entered and called for refreshments, but before he could partake of them a cannon ball from one of the pursuing frigates entered the house, crushing the table and scattered refreshments over the room. To one or two bateaux matches were applied by the Americans as they retired, and they were blown up. The remainder, of the stores were all captured in our harbor and destroyed or appropriated by the enemy. (The British captured row galley Trumbull and schooner Liberty and used them many years. Row galley Gates, schooner Revenge, and sloop Enterprise were destroyed).

Burgoyne immediately moved on to this place with the main body of his army. (He arrived on the first frigate.) He lay here two or three weeks constructing a road through to Fort Ann, arranging baggage trains, advancing his heavy artillery, etc., in preparation for moving on to Fort Edward.

During his stay Burgoyne and his staff were entertained by Skene at his own house, and the tents of his bannered host, thus triumphant, whitened the spot where we now so triumphantly worship, spreading over the entire eminence from Church Street to the base of the mountain (and on the east side to the top of Skene Mountain).

The Whitehall Times
February 27, 1975

Skene and the North Area
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Bicentennial phases are listed as Heritage, Festival and Horizon. Every community can do its "own thing" but a combining of forces can make a united celebration. This can be true of the Lake Champlain route with its individual program stressing its history. Especially will this be so along the Burgoyne Trail in 1977 which will extend the area to Saratoga. The connection of these places on the lake are the same as these of Whitehall.

The Portage around the falls on Ticonderoga Creek, the creek itself, and Lake George, are related to Whitehall's history through the activities of Philip Skene under Generals Abercrombie and Amherst. Lake George, a beautiful spring fed body of water, "the famed gem of the old wilderness" was first called by the Indians Caniaderi-oit or the "tail of the lake." Father Jocques reached the foot of the lake 16 May 1646 at present Ticonderoga. Because it was the feast of the Blessed Body of Jesus he named the lake Lac de la Sacraments. In 1755 Sir William Johnson changed the name to Lake George in honor of his king of England. The name Horican used by novelist Cooper had no basis in history.

The waters of Lake George pass over a falls into Ticonderoga Creek and further down in the center of the village over rapids. The early Indians, according to E. B. "Murray, called the promontory on which Fort Ticonderoga is located Cheonderoga, or "place of many and mellow sounds" in reference to the dull roar of the falls and soft sounds of the rushing rapids that filled the surrounding woods. The French called it Carillon or "the chime of bells." Governor Colden wrote the area named Ticontarogen from a combination of Indian syllables meaning between two lakes."

Philip Skene was at Ticonderoga on two occasions in warfare, under General Abercrombie in 1758 and under General Amherst in 1759 when he saved the fort from being completely demolished by leading soldiers in taking gunpowder from the burning building.

Down, the lake, on the Vermont side is a small bay called Hand's Cove. From it on 10 May 1775 Green Mountain Boys crossed the lake in an iron ore scow of Skene's to capture Fort Ticonderoga.

Further down the lake are another two points jutting into the water. Murray called it "geographically the gate of the lake'," as it closed the wide expanse into the narrow part south. In 1689 the French called it Point au Chevelure or Crown Point, the name the English used afterwards. In 1732 the French built a fort and named it after the French Secretary of state, Frederick Maurepas. The word Saint was added as most French places in Canada added that j to their place names. To this place came Skene in 1759 under General Amherst. He was in charge of the encampment and had the work of building the English fort there. From here he continued his plans for the settlement of Skenesborough in that same year. Here also in 1775 his sister Elizabeth and two daughters, Mary and

Katharine, were entertained by Benedict Arnold on their way to refuge in Canada, having been taken first to Hartford, Conn., after their capture at Skenesborough, 9 May 1775.

The Whitehall Times
March 6, 1975

Skene and the North Area
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Below Crown Point on the lake is located Port Henry, at one time called Porter's Mills after the first grantee of 1766 who built a mill. A section of Port Henry is called Skin Rat which, it has been conjectured, was originally Skene's Flat. Just north of this area is the present Cheever where are the open pits holes of iron ore mining days. This lay in a tract of 600 acres granted to Philip Skene in a patent of 1771. On this tract he had located four tenants who were cultivating 100 acres each. Skene's Negroes mined ore at this spot, living in a small settlement at the north called Raymond's Mills on Raymond or Stacey Creek. A marker on the state road by the turn to Camp Dudley marks the site where once were a mill, houses and an iron ore wharf.

This ore was carried by scow to Skenesborough Foundry. It was one of Skene's scows that were used to transport Green Mountain Boys to Fort Ticonderoga 10 May 1775. Iron from Cheever mines, smelted at Skenesborough foundry was used in the chain that stretched across Lake Champlain between Fort Ticonderoga and Fort Mount Independence in the vain attempt to stop Burgoyne's ships. Later this chain was incorporated in the chain that was stretched across the Hudson. Some links of it are in the State Education building in Albany at the top of the second story stairs.

Farther down the lake is Westport, formerly known as Bessboro from a family name of William Gilliland who had patents in this area. But 2400 acres of the best land along the lake shore was granted to Philip Skene at the same time of the iron ore bed at Cheever. There seems to be no account of any settlement made by the grantee but an area along the lake is still called Skene's Woods.

The next place associated with Skenesborough and Whitehall is Otter Creek. Here in the bay Benedict Arnold hurried with five of his ships in the retreat from the Battle of Valcour. Here he set them on fire with flags flying so that they would not fall into the hands of the following British fleet. Later in 1814 this creek was used by Thomas Macdonough to build the Saratoga and recondition the Ticonderoga, the model of the first of which is in Skenesborough Museum and the hull of the second is in back of the museum.

The next point north is Willsboro, settled by William Gilliland. He must have been an acquaintance of Philip Skene for both of them used the lake for trade. One historian has stated that when Skene received the commission of Governor of

Ticonderoga, Crown Point and overseer of His Majesty's woods that Gilliland was his partner in government but no papers have been found that substantiate this claim.

The Whitehall Times
March 13, 1975

Skene and the North Area
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The next place on the lake associated with Whitehall is Shelburn Harbor. Here in 1812 Thomas Macdonough found the deteriorated boats of the United States Navy and brought them to the shipyards of Whitehall to be put in condition. They became the HUNTER, BULL DOG and the PRESIDENT.

Two years later Plattsburgh became the scene of action and in the bay Macdonough defeated the British. He brought the prize British fleet and the American one to Whitehall where they lay in the lake, manned for a time, and then was taken to East Bay.

Just before Plattsburgh is the Bay of Valcour, where Benedict Arnold engaged the British fleet in 1776. At the end of the day the fight was a draw and Arnold withdrew in the night. Five of the ships lived to fight again in Skenesborough Harbor in 1777.

This brings us to the end of Lake Champlain but beyond it is St. Jean (St. Johns) on the Richelieu River. Philip Skene traded in Canada and must have known this place well. Here it was on 18 May 1775 that Benedict Arnold in the LIBERTY with his sailors and marines captured the first British ship to strike the Americans.

The Whitehall Times
March 29, 1973

Another Bit of Skene Material
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Another bit of Skene material came to light at a meeting in Port Henry last week when a citizen asked if those present knew the location of Tunnel Avenue. She said that it had been known for a long time as Skin Flat, which was a shortened Skene Flat. Skene got his iron ore from Cheever mines which were worked just above this area, evidently known as the place where the loading took place. In like manner the residence called Skene Forest was located in Westport through a radio program on foods, of all things.

Skene owned 2400 acres In Westport and this name has remained on the scene. It is near the virgin trees that are still in Westport town.

The Whitehall Times
April 26, 1977

Manuscript Papers
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Original letters and notes of Jemima Skene Booth have been loaned to Skenesborough Museum by Jane and Herman Gordon. These papers Herman saved from an ash can when he was a young lad.

In the early years of the 20th century Clarence Holden, a town historian, gathered a large collection of original material about Whitehall. Much he had bound and placed in the manuscript room of the State Library in Albany. Through interviews with the older people of the time and through diligent research he collected much more. Unfortunately on his death papers in his estate were discarded, but through the curiosity of small boys some were saved. This was the case of Herman's papers. Doubtless there are others, now forgotten, in many places around town.

The novel, Kathi of Skenesborough, was introduced to the public in 1914. It was written by Mrs. May Belle Curtis, of Glens Falls who worked at the time in Whitehall. She belonged to the Historical Society, as did Mr. Holden who was its instigator. The letters and notes are in some cases directed to her and her questions about the Skene family were answered.

Mrs. Booth was at this time living in Paris in very strained circumstances and welcomed an opportunity to have what papers she had purchased. But what she sent provided to the author authentic events and facts that have made the story in the book so accurate. This was the book the Bicentennial committee had reprinted for sale during the celebration.

The story of this correspondence was written at the time in the newspapers. Since then generations have come and the repetition may be of interest to them. Philip Skene was Jemima's great-grandfather. She did not know him personally but had access to family stories. Her assessment of his character corresponds with that of researchers who did work on his life. So many of the accounts written during the recent years of the Bicentennial have given the glib picture of him as a Tory that was not pleasant. She said: One thing strikes me particularly in Philip Skene's character, his patient resignation to the inevitable; he put a great deal of energy into his farming in England; this must have been trivial work to one who had been accustomed to dealing with larger matters and who had certainly greater responsibilities in connection with the development of Skenesborough.

Another interesting section is a reference to land in Whitehall that belonged to the Tozers. This land stretched approximately from Saunders Street to Adams Street. In some of the maps it was labeled as being along the canal about where the museum is. She wrote: Towser is a name on a document forming part of a lot for the sale of which I am in negotiation with Mr. Pell. Stephen Pell told me that he went to see Mrs. Booth in Paris and had purchased from her the Skene manuscripts that are in the Fort Ticonderoga collection.

Copies of the letters and notes will be forthcoming.

The Whitehall Times

June 6, 1977

Kathi of Skenesborough

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In 1949 a very active Senior Girl Scout troop under the direction of Mrs. Ursula Pray wrote a play from the novel "Kathi of Skenesborough" by Mrs. May Belle Curtis and presented it to the public.

In 1959 during the Bicentennial of Whitehall's founding, this same group of actresses returned from various walks of life and gave the play again.

Mrs. Pray, the leader of this troop, was made Whitehall's Bicentennial Queen in 1975 for the three years of our national bicentennial. Again the play will be presented to the public. Many of those taking part this year will be the children of the first participants.

On Thursday, June 30, at the Grange Hall, "Kathi of Skenesborough" will be enacted, admission free. This will start the 1977 program of activities for Whitehall's observance of New York's statehood's 200th anniversary and the national bicentennial.

It is quite evident that the background of the novel was based on material obtained from Mrs. Jemima Booth, great-granddaughter of Philip Skene, with whom Mrs. Curtis had correspondence. The following letter was written by Mrs. Booth from Boulogne sur Mer on June 18, 1912:

"I feel greatly interested in your historical novel and much regret that — I can contribute so little in the way of anecdote.

"I do not know where you may have found the pet name 'Thibby'; it would seem more applicable to Elizabeth, Philip's sister, who was taken prisoner with her two nieces in 1775 and had to walk through the woods to Salisbury; she was alive in Chelsea in 1789.

"Katharine's pet name was "Kibby," or as she signs a bill drawn on her father, 'Kathi.'"

"She was a handsome woman but evidently not her father's favorite."

"Neither of the daughters accompanied Burgoyne's army. Philip Skene wrote to them, at Quebec, from camp at the Great Sly near Stillwater 30 September 1777."

"I do not know the date of Katharine's marriage. You will be interested in her father's reference to her husband and son; the original on a little slip of paper is evidently the part of the draft of a letter." (Not among the papers.)

"It is certain that Philip Skene was of authoritative, masterful disposition; his success at Skenesborough, in spite of difficulties, shows that; he was, however, a good friend, both to those whom he was in a position to oblige and to those who could oblige him.

"- - - Skene had been greatly impoverished by the war and an estate he purchased in England was heavily mortgaged. Yet there remains distinct evidence of his readiness to assist others.

"Wishing you every success in your work, I am sincerely yours, Jemima M. Booth nee Skene."

The Whitehall Times October 28, 1971

Borough Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Borough is an English word meaning a self-governing incorporated town in certain states of the United States; thus we have Skenesborough, a borough with the name of the town's founder attached. Under the charter granted Philip Skene in 1865 the political form of his township was prescribed with officers elected from the inhabitants each year.

Several spellings of the Skene name have been used and are seen even on old maps, such as Skene Skeene, Skean, and even Skim in Loyalist papers. The Skene families in England and Scotland have always used the spelling Skene and the pronunciation Skene (long e). It is from these that our town was named,

It is interesting to note the geographic name and organization names that have been used from the original town name. There are Skene Street and Skene Mountain. A map of 1777 shows the present Mettowee River as Skenesborough Creek. There is a Skene Valley over the mountain in which was located the Skene Valley Dairy. The former owner at first used the spelling Skeene as his father had before him but in 1959 he changed it to Skene. In the valley now is the Skene Valley Country Club with its golf links.

We have Skenesborough chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star and Skenesborough Home Bureau, Skene Manor on Skene Mountain was so named because of the mountain and because the first owner of it as a restaurant wanted an historic name.

Skeenic News was named by members of the high school student body not because of its denotation but for its sound. It was the successor of the high school yearbook, The Skeenic. The former Skene Valley Motors copied its spelling from the Skeenic News. The local chapter of the National Honor Society of Whitehall High school is called the Skene Mountain Chapter.

Recently there are Skenesborough Museum, Skenesborough Central Fire Company with its Skenesborough Fire House, and Skenesborough Emergency Squad.

The latest addition is the Skenesborough Morgan Stable. Its present occupants were Bald Mountain Jeremy, a registered Morgan stallion and Skene's Ben of the old Morgan bred line.

The name Skenesborough was changed to Whitehall in 1786. The choice of the latter name is unexplained, for the first town records had half a page missing between the last entry for Skenesborough and the first for Whitehall. Quite often in newspaper accounts there is an expression of some group that the name of town and village be changed back to its first appellation, which would take legislative action. Perhaps that desire will be expressed again when we celebrate the bicentennial of our nation's birth.

The Whitehall Times

March 22, 1979

Coincidences

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Coincidences are surprising happenings. In this case it is that a former Whitehaller is participating in the restoration of a building that Philip Skene, founder of Skenesborough, and his son Andrew lived in when they were prisoners in Hartford, Conn.

In "Broadway and Canal" Ben Carpenter is reporting the story of the restoration of the Sarah Hooker House where Philip, Andrew and Major French boarded at their own expense in 1775-1776.

Philip was taken to Hartford via New York City from Philadelphia where he was captured on the ship on which he had returned to America. Andrew was taken in Skenesborough on 9 May when that place was captured by the Americans. He was *taken* to Ticonderoga where Captain Delaplace had been captured 10 May. From there Andrew, with his aunt and sisters, and Captain Delaplace with his family, were taken to Connecticut.

Philip and Andrew, with Major French, declared enemies of the country, met in Weathers Field and from there were sent to Hartford to await instructions from Congress who were slow to act. Although Philip felt his treatment from the inhabitants was demeaning and unjust, he kept his "parole of honor." Andrew, not having given his word, escaped to the British Warship Asia and went to Canada.

Life was dull. The prisoners tried to alleviate tedium by whist parties and rides around the community. These even were suspect and citizens were ready to "tar and feather." Philip even declared that the horrible British prison New Gate would be better than Hartford.

During their stay Philip's Negro, John Anderson, was "elected" governor of the Negroes, an annual occurrence. With gifts from the British prisoners and his own money, John put on a large party which was eyed askance. Proper explanations allowed this "treat" to go on.

In 1776 Philip's parole expired. As he refused to accept another, he was put in actual jail. From here he railed against his jailers and their cause and was able even to pass messages smuggled to him by his overseer at Skenesborough.

In December Philip was exchanged for a member of Congress, James Lovell, and soon was able to sail to England. Both had held positions of honor and neither was in military service.

The Whitehall Times

June 10, 1971

Skene Ladies

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The minutes of the Historical Society of January, 1911, mention a "letter from Mrs. Jemima Booth nee Skene" and photographs of Andrew Philip Skene and his wife Harriet. Jemima Booth was a great-granddaughter of Philip Skene. Her father, Andrew Motz Skene, son of Andrew Philip, was an officer in the ship which carried Napoleon Bonaparte into exile. His painting of the general hangs in Skenesborough Museum,

The letter mentioned has a pathetic story behind it. From the Whitehall Chronicle of June 1, 1906, and a conversation with the late Stephen Pell of Fort Ticonderoga, it can be pieced together thus:

Widow Jemima Booth was living in Boulogne, France, in destitute circumstances, her eyesight rapidly failing. Knowing from the personal papers of her great-grandfather Philip the story of his confiscated land in Whitehall, she sent a letter addressed to the Mayor of Whitehall.

This letter was turned over to the Chronicle by Superintendent William B. Inglee. Through correspondence she clarified her identity by sending manuscript papers of Philip Skene. Whether Whitehall ever granted aid to Mrs. Booth cannot be determined as copies of the Whitehall Chronicle which would have followed up the story seem not to be in existence. The photographs are in the Fort Ticonderoga library.

Stephen Pell visited Mrs. Booth at her rooms in France and bought a collection of her manuscript papers. I am under the impression that he eased the last years of her life through financial assistance. She eventually was entirely blind.

The Whitehall Times
June 17, 1971

Skene Ladies
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The capture of the Skene family, Mary, Kathi, Andrew and Aunt Elizabeth with overseer John Brooks is described in "Kathi of Skenesborough." Jemima Booth in her letter to Whitehall remonstrated, belatedly, with the American captors for making these ladies walk the long distance to Salisbury, Conn. They did walk some but only to get away from the rough treatment received in riding in an ox-cart over anything but smooth roads.

On the way to Salisbury, via Albany, the three ladies stayed overnight with Mrs. Philip Schuyler, the American general's wife. Early war social customs evidently were different from those of today. In Salisbury, which they reached 18 May, the Americans in command of prisoners sent brother Andrew and John Brooks on to Weathersfield to be imprisoned with Philip but decreed that the three women be sent on to Canada, retracing their route through Skenesborough. Benedict Arnold's journal laconically records that he entertained the Skene ladies overnight 23 June at Crown Point, not Ticonderoga, as Miss Curtis records.

From Crown Point they passed to Quebec which they reached in destitute straits. Mr. Cramake, a friend, arranged a loan from a Thomas Dunn so they could exist. What a miserable two months these women must have spent. Used to luxurious living with servants to wait on them, they must have found the travel through woods over rough roads almost unbearable. What must Philip, who would not expose a servant to a stormy night, have thought of his sister and daughter being exposed thus.

The Whitehall Times
February 10, 1972

Skene
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Skenesborough Museum now has an authentic Skene hunting kilt sent as a gift from Colonel W. Dale C. Trotter. He is the great - great - grandson of Philip Skene.

The Skene family is of Scotch origin and this kilt is made from the distinctive Skene plaid. There are two colorings of the Skene plaid, the difference being in the dye materials used. The plaid made with vegetable dyes is in soft colors of green, blue and orange arranged in squares and rectangles. The chemical dyes make the colors much more vivid so that the green and blue appear very dark and the orange almost a red.

The kilt sent by Colonel Trotter is from the chemical dyes. It is a wrap-around starting at the right side, going around the back, across the front, and across again, making a double thickness across the back. It is fastened in front at the top with two-leather straps and buckles, the rest falling free. This free edge is fringed. There are three

inch pleats across the front. The kilt, modeled by Mrs. Carol Senecal, can be seen in the picture of the Historical Society of Whitehall at its last meeting. This is a man's kilt. The term kilts is used for a woman's.

The terms kilt, tartan, and plaid are often interchanged in usage. Dictionary-wise a kilt is a knee-length skirt with deep pleats usually of tartan wool, worn especially as part of the dress for men in the Scottish Highlands. A tartan is a twilled wool fabric or garment having a pattern consisting of stripes of varying widths and colors crossed at right angles against a solid background, each having a distinctive design worn by members of a Scottish clan. A plaid is a rectangular woolen scarf of a tartan pattern worn over the shoulder or the cloth with the tartan pattern.

Colonel Dale and Mona Trotter were visitors of Whitehall during its bicentennial celebration in 1959. At that time they brought with them from their home the family portraits of Philip Skene and his son Andrew. Because of English laws concerning such historic items, the portraits could not be left here. However the Museum has black and white photographic copies of them hanging in the entrance hall which contains items of early Whitehall history.

The Museum has part of a bolt of the hand woven Skene tartan that is made into items such as scarfs, book marks, and other small items. The curtains in the shop are of this plaid.

THIS SPACE LEFT BLANK

The Founder of Whitehall

Improvement of the demand of Federal improvement would naturally and logically involve the suspension or abandonment of the work already under way by the State, which is being done in compliance with the law of the State and the expressed will of the people when this question was submitted to them, several years ago.

During the campaign for canal improvement extending back over the last twenty years, the question of state or national improvement has been fully threshed out in every detail by several conventions held at different cities throughout this State, as well as the legislature and finally the people by popular vote have ordered its proper officials to improve the Champlain Canal throughout its entire length and have provided the funds to pay for the improvement as ordered, so that the canal might continue in the language of the constitution, "to remain the property of the State and under its management forever."

The state authorities have already spent a large sum in the prosecution of the work and are now actually digging this improved channel.

The commercial interests which are anxiously awaiting the completion of this work would be woefully disappointed should any suggestion arrest the vigorous prosecution and early completion of this great waterway.

Signed,
W. E. Cleary

THE NEW TOWING CO.

Officers Elected Tuesday Evening.

As stated in this paper last week, the St. Johns and Whitehall Towing and Transportation Co. has been incorporated. The directors are D. Noel, Alfred Richards, G. H. Hunt, Alexander Robert, William Quinn, Henry G. Noel and Henry G. Fleury.

On Tuesday evening, a meeting was held in the rooms of the Inland Seaman's Union in this place, and the following officers were elected: President, William Quinn, of New York City; vice president, Alfred Richards, of Brooklyn; secretary and treasurer, Henry G. Noel, of Whitehall; general manager, Henry G. Fleury with headquarters at Whitehall.

The tug which the new line will put on the lake has left New York and is bound for the bluff of the Atlantic. She will be on the ground in about a week.

THE FOUNDER OF WHITEHALL

His Excellency, the Honorable Philip Skene of Hal-yards (Fife), some time Lieutenant-Governor, Commandant of Crown Point and Ticonderoga, Lieutenant-Colonel in the Army, Colonel of Militia, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Charlotte, Inspector of Woods and Forests Bordering on Lake Champlain, and of Ungranted Lands in the Province of Quebec.

AUTOGRAPH LETTER, IN TYPE, FROM ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT

Copies of Memoranda, with Annotations of His Great Grandson, Andrew Philip Skene, Dated Pornic, (Loire Inferieure) France, 1890.

The CHRONICLE of Friday, April 20th, presented a letter written to the "Mayor of Whitehall," by Mrs. Jemima Margaret Booth, of Boulogne, France, in which Mrs. Booth recites briefly the facts pertaining to Philip Skene's loss of 60,000 acres of property in this locality through confiscation because of his loyalty to the British Crown. Mrs. Booth states that she is the great-granddaughter of Philip Skene, and, but for the fortunes of war, she would have inherited a substantial fortune. She is now in destitute circumstances and makes an appeal to the generosity to the people of Whitehall to assist her as she is aged and suffering from an incurable malady.

The letter was handed to Supervisor William B. Inglee and the CHRONICLE opened a correspondence with Mrs. Booth hoping to secure letters and papers of interest, and possibly family portraits. The result of this correspondence has been very gratifying. No reasonable doubt can now be entertained that Mrs. Booth is Col. Skene's descendant, in view of all that she has sent. Without considering her reasonable petition for financial assistance, the people of Whitehall are truly indebted to her for the highly interesting information she has given us concerning the life and personality of the distinguished founder of our municipality. As she has suggested, a letter will be addressed to the Boulogne consular officer of the United States for further confirmation of her family claim, but this procedure

is really superfluous and merely a matter of form.

Having forwarded papers, booklets, illustrated cards etc. to Boulogne, we received on May 19th, the following:

Mrs. Booth's Autograph Letter.
45 RUE DE JOINVILLE,
BOULOGNE SUR MER,
PAS DE CALAIS, FRANCE,
9 May 1890.

Dear Sir:—Although I can write only with great difficulty on account of the bad state of my eyes, I cannot resist the temptation to tell you by own hand how grateful I am for your sympathy. I have trained my hand to supply in some degree what is wanting in correct sight, and hope you will be able to read this autograph letter.

There is a pathetic song in which I have said that "the poor make no new friends"; I am happy to prove this exception to this too often true saying for the kindly tone both of your article and letter convinces me that I have indeed made some across the Atlantic and I am proud of the generous appreciation shown of the disinterested character, valour, and ability of my ancestor.

It cannot be mere chance that led me to write at the very time that you, fellow citizens were taking an interest in my ancestor's history, and I thank God that my appeal was made at such an opportune moment.

(New address in CHRONICLE)

to my brother's death, and the thorough going of my health and disease, but I am now kindly offered, in doing this, and trust we may find something that may interest your readers.

I have the pleasure to send you family chart and some memoranda relating to Philip Skene; as you desire information concerning other members of the family, I will try to send some later. You would greatly oblige me by forwarding two copies of such articles as you may publish.

The photograph of myself that I am sending is taken in one of the two rooms that have been my home for nine years past. I am never able to walk out and my last carriage drive was at least two years ago.

With renewed expressions of thanks of your very great kindness,

I am Dear Sir,

Yours Faithfully,

JEMMA MARGARET BOOTH,
(NEE SKENE.)

Col. Skene's Brilliant Military Record - His Death

In 1810, there occurred a death thus announced in the Gentleman's Magazine -

At Addersey Lodge near Stoke Newington, Bucks; at an advanced age, Colonel Philip Skene, formerly of Skeneborough, Lieutenant Governor of Crown Point and Ticonderoga, and Major of His Majesty's Woods and Forests bordering on Lake Champlain, the State of New York, whose loyalty could only be equalled by his singularity, having served as an officer in the British Army from 1739 to the close of the American War in 1783, during which period he was engaged in some of the severest conflicts recorded in the British annals, and often wounded. Besides many actions of inferior note, he was at the taking and destruction of Cartagena and Porto Bello, at the battle of Culloden, and afterwards Antioy Lafeldt etc. under His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, from whence he went in 1756 to America, was engaged under Lord Howe at the unfortunate attack at Ticonderoga, afterwards under Lord Amherst at its capture, with that of Crown Point, etc. From thence went to the attack of Miquique and the Savannah under Lord Albemarle, and was due of the who entered the breach at the storm of the Mingo Castle, and the attack on

the Enemy to blow up the Powder Magazine, and from whence he himself brought out through the Flames remarkable Large French barrels of Gunpowder, that no man of the party of 800 men could stand under, or carry, but he setting the Daring Example, encouraged others to assist him (2) by which means the Fort was saved and was of the utmost consequence to the public, as forwarding the General's intended operations on Crown Point, Lake Champlain, etc. (3) For such

known loyalty, he lost an ample fortune, he lived in secluded retirement to the time of his death. Colonel Skene's grandfather, John Skene of Hallyards in Fifeshire, Scotland was married to Elizabeth, daughter to Sir Thomas Wallace of Craigie in Ayrshire, the nearest collateral of the celebrated but unfortunate William Wallace. Colonel Skene has left a son and 10 daughters to lament his death. He died 10th June 1810, in his 86th year."

like eminent services, but for the vast sums by him Expended.

Services in America.
Colonel Wilkins' Certificate of Colonel Skene's Services and Settlements in America:

"I do hereby certify, that during the Glorious Campaign of 1759, at the attack of the French Fort at Ticonderoga, and when Encamped at Crown Point, etc. in N. America, I was favored with the Acquaintance and Friendship of Captain Philip Skene of the 27th Regiment, and understood with the army then Present that our worthy General (Sir Jeffrey now) Lord Amherst had, for Captain Skene's great merit as an officer, (And I will say as an Eye witness) Unparalleled Matchless Gallantry bravery and strength, (1) appointed him to be His Excellency's Major of Brigade. I take the liberty of using those Epithets, having seen him at the above mentioned place, and by his own Exertions, prevented said Fort of Ticonderoga from being entirely Destroyed, the Enemy having set Fire thereto and abandoned the same, Cap Skene voluntarily rushed thro' the Flames, and Cut off or Extinguished the match, intended by

the Enemy to blow up the Powder Magazine, and from whence he himself brought out through the Flames remarkable Large French barrels of Gunpowder, that no man of the party of 800 men could stand under, or carry, but he setting the Daring Example, encouraged others to assist him (2) by which means the Fort was saved and was of the utmost consequence to the public, as forwarding the General's intended operations on Crown Point, Lake Champlain, etc. (3) For such

like eminent services, but for the vast sums by him Expended.

like eminent services, but for the vast sums by him Expended.

carry on which the Major sold his Company in the Army, and employed sale thereof, with an independent fortune obtained with his wife, also all sums that he was possessed of in this undertaking, on a presumption that he had the Nation's Security For His ALL. But should this not be the case, and he does not obtain the free possession of the Lands so granted, (from our late surrender of America) he will doubtless be entitled to a refund from the Public, that was to benefit, not only from such Eminent services, but for the vast sums by him Expended.

(1) He stood 3 or 4 inches over 6 feet, and was very stout.

(2) The heads of the barrels had been knocked off; my ancestor threw his coat over one barrel, crying "A guinea to every man that does like me!" and by this means the magazine was emptied. Colonel Williams' account is stronger in his favor than the family tradition.

(3) "The Fort of Ticonderoga when destroyed" by the New Englanders in 1775, had cost "eight million pounds sterling." "His grandson's" "History of the U. S. of America," S. Low & Co., 1880. The main part of this enormous sum must have been spent by France, its preservation for our use is entirely due to my ancestor as above. The amount is questioned by the Saturday Review; the author perhaps found the statement "huit millions de livres i. e. francs," and took them for pounds sterling (French lawyers even now always say "livre" instead of "franc"). But even this diminution to 1-25 leaves £320,000 to the credit of my ancestor.

Capt'n Skene was remarkably unfortunate in the sale of his Company, as it threw him out of the line of Preference, or otherwise he must now have been a Major General, and perhaps in Command of a Regiment. (4)

(Signed) JOHN WILKINS
Late Lt. Col. of H. M. Regt. of Foot
Manor Street, Chelsea 2 Apr. 1837.

(4) In 1763 he was made Colonel of a regiment of militia in America. In 1774 he resigned his staff appointment of Major of Brigade in favor of his son (the pay was £240 p. a. - what it could be got), and was named Lieut. Gov. Commr. of Crown Point and Ticonderoga with the rank of Lt. Col. in the army, and a salary £200 p. a. which he had the greatest difficulty in getting paid for the first time a dozen years after, and yet probably few had stronger interest. Lords Dartmouth, Amherst, Barrington, Thomson, Dorchester, Shelburne, Alton, Marle &c. &c. were his staunch friends.

Poems

The Whitehall Times
December 7, 1978

From The Times of Old - 1878
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

AN ADVERTISEMENT OF 100 YEARS AGO

Whitehall people traded with stores in Troy and New York in the latter 1800's and these stores placed advertisements in the Whitehall papers. This one advertised the store of Julius Saul, a clothier of New York City.

The Times of Old

A hut, a hearth, a rocking chair and spindle,
A looking glass, a bed, a pail, a clock,
A fence, a dog-house, roofs of straw or shingle,
A woodshed boiled with an iron lock,
An axe, a shovel, spade, a hatchet, rake,
A chicken-coop for hens, for pigs a sty,
A hissing kettle, and of rye a cake,
Such was a home of old in days gone by

Upon the rocking chair, and pipe in hand
Is seated Father Welch, the tenant's chief,
Reading some items of the holy land
Out of the Bible with a firm belief.
The mother of the house is busy spinning
Some warm material for winter's cold,
While daughters, sons, their own work are beginning
Such were the doings in the days of old.

But few were the desire limited men's ambitions,
And nothing but necessities required,
Rye bread and gruel the probable nutrition
That was by all or any one desire.
Yet simple as they were, these small demands,
The work was tiresome to maintain a hold,
Though simple pennies held with iron hands,
Still every one was poor in days of old.

How different things seem now, at present age,
Inventions turned the wheel, and things have changed
A different strife upon this earthly stage,

And easily all matters are arranged.
All such material, formerly spun by women,
Much nicer in design and quality behold,
Are purchased ready made by all our present women
At less than cost in time of old.

And garments such as coats, pants or vest,
Or overcoats for young, boys or men
In quantities of goods cheap, medium, best,
A fitting, safe to say, nine out of ten,
The public of today buy them of Saul,
They really find the place correct as gold,
The poor or rich, none ever fail to call,
And feel far happier as in times of old.

The Whitehall Times
December 2, 1976

1850's
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

TO WHITEHALL
By D.M.W.

Dear old historic Whitehall! How long it's been since the
wild bird's call
The panther's scream, the
savage's yell,
Echoed and resounded o'er
your lake and dell.
And how you've changed since Champlain's eyes
Beheld your site — a paradise
Primeval in its solitude,
On which white man ne'er intrude.
Since "Bloody" mountain's
sod soaked red
With the blood your noble
founders shed
Since Burgoyne took his
ruthless band
Through Skenesborough to
despoil our land.
Since first beneath your
"Wishing" tree,

When life was young and
fresh and free,
A young and blushing
maiden, made
The life's compact in its
welcome shade.
Ah! Yes, since then you're
changed!
No longer are your forests
ranged
By the pioneer of his
dusky foe,
No longer the wild beasts
come and go.
The wildcat's scream and the
warrior's yell,
Have been drowned by the
engine's whistle and bell;
The silence of your noble hills
Is broken by sounds of shops and mills.
From your pathless lake and
river blue,
Long since has gone the bark
course;
And in its place, on the lake's
broad breast,
Canal and tug boats and
steamers rest.
The change is great, but it's
for the best;
With sons and daughters
you've been blest
A happy, whole-souled,
congenial set,
Whom none but noblemen
could beget.
And may they always as
happy be
As on the night when they
welcomed me.
And may the ball of the
"Terpsichord"
Be repeated o'er and o'er
and o'er.

David M. Wilson came to Whitehall in the early 1840's. He became a novelist, a poet, a lawyer, and member of the many local organizations. He was elected to the State

Assembly and served as its clerk. He left Whitehall for Hudson Falls, the place of his birth, in the early 1860's.

The Whitehall Independent
April 16, 1986

Hill Back of Home - 1850's
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

"Hill Back of Home"

This is a poem of Skene Mountain written by David Morton for Lloyd and Grace Allen back in mid century years. We secured it at the time of the 1959 Bicentennial.

The fiery stuff that you are fashioned of
Before you froze to profiles in the sky,
Becomes a way for boy and girl in love,
And nesting bird and airy butterfly;
Here blue wildflowers will sleep the noon away,
And summer dusk be wide with silence, now
Undreamful, all, of that tumultuous day
That lifted here a dark, immoderate brow.
If naught of earth dies utterly, but passes
To other shapes through other forms and hours,
I must believe your tall and thrusting grasses,
And wandering butterflies and burning flowers –
And these two, in the summer of their year
Bear the flown sparks of what had hurled you there.

In earlier years New York State used blue and yellow metal markers for historic sites around the state as the one on Poultney Street and the ones around the Village provided by the Washington County Historical Society. As these became in need of upkeep the State devised another scheme of providing historical information which would serve big areas along the highways and be perhaps easier in upkeep. Such a one was installed on the Fair Haven Road just outside the bridge that crosses into Fair Haven. What has become it? Inquiry at State level provides no information, in fact, no knowledge of its disappearances was at hand. Many people remember seeing and reading the message. One reply was, "It's probably in some college dormitory room." But it would be quite large for such a place.

The information on it was good except for the date of the settlement of Skenesborough in 1759 instead of 1761. That latter date has been printed in earlier accounts of the settlement and no new research was made.

The Whitehall Times
May 18, 1972

Portrait No. 2 from 1855
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Portrait No. 2 from 1855
Slim and tall as a telegraph
pole,
And hair as white as the snows
that fall
Upon the post that stands by
the wall,
And while the needle went into
your soul,
You sighed that you were a
tailor.
For you were at loss, with your
legs so long,
To sit criss cross at will of
a boss,
Sewing and stitching, stout and
strong,
As the sweat down poured, you
pitched to the deuce
Your shears and your goose,
And bid goodbye to the Tailors.
And now your next turn is to
enter a furnace,
And strive while the coal dust
your white locks environ,
To learn all the secrets of
melting of iron,
But soon you thought your appearance at night,
Would not many praises and
smiles invite,
From any young lady who was
a beholder,
You deemed that they could not
see much of grace In such a gritty and grimy face,
And that at meeting, perhaps
they might
Give a mechanic a very cold
shoulder.
So into the ground your tools

you flung
And mutter'd out with an angry
tongue,
Good bye to the dirty moulders.
By" searching about at length
you found out,
Your destined natural calling,
You called it singing and others
howling,
There you cut a great dash and
raise a Moustache,
And become a dandy dresser,
of Music soon a Professor.
And since your mouth you can
open so wide,
You could swallow a church,
and steeple beside,
And perhaps the bells, and their
ringer,
If the ladies 'tis true, can all
swallow you,
Pray stick to the name of a
singer.

The Whitehall Times
June 6, 1972

From 1855
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

There is nothing in the file as yet about William Cosgrove, the subject of the third sketch on people in Whitehall in 1885. This one seems to be rather facetious.

O when I was small, and in
consequence younger,
My bowels would often grumble
with hunger,"
Till I had the good fortune
to meet with Olf Gruffy,
And then for my grub, I went
driving Old Cuffy.
Gee up Cuffy, Gee who Cuggy,
Get along Cuffy, Gee up and
gee whoa.
But my legs they grew long,

while my pants they grew
 shorter,
 And Gruffy, he did not behave
 as he'd oughter,
 And so then the Doctor he
 hired me in pity,
 To drive the Express team,
 and give up the ditty,
 Of Gee up Cuffy, gee whoa Cuffy,
 Get Along Cuffy, gee up and
 gee whoa.
 This went very well till I got
 a good rig enough
 When I grew up so fast, that
 my boots were not big enough,
 And I hated to work like a
 smith at his anvil,
 When I was the conrade of
 gentry from Granville,
 Gee up Cuffy, gee whoa Cuffy
 Get along Cuffy, gee up and whoa.
 And so I grew prouder, and
 saucy, and wirish,
 And forgot that my blood and
 my breeding was Irish,
 And then the express man, the
 imputent Yankee
 "He told me to leave him and
 didn't say thank'ye.
 Gee up Cuffy, gee whoa cuffy,
 Get along Cuffy, gee up and
 gee whoa.
 But I was a blood, and could
 shake a few dollars,
 And my Granville friends called me the aptest of
 scholars,
 So I went to a ball and got
 drunk as the devil,
 And floured a darned Yankee
 who wouldn't be civil.
 Gee up Cuffy, gee and whoa Cuffy
 Get along Cuffy, gee up and gee whoa.
 I then ran away, but with every
 endeavor
 I find that my money won't
 last me forever,

If I cannot do better I'll go
to Old Gruffy,
And ask him to hire me, again
to drive Cuffy.
Gee up Cuffy, gee whoa Cuffy,
Get along Cuffy, gee up and
gee whoa.

The Whitehall Times
May 22, 1980

1880

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Celebrating the Seventh Anniversary of Wilkins Editorship of The Times

Well, a Wilkins who as draper
Once adorned the human body
With "store clothes," and something shoddy,
But now runs a first class paper
Read far and wide — The Whitehall Times —
We pledge thy health in jolly rhymes,
And drink to thee in rhythmic toddy.

Tw'as well to clothe the human frame
With garments fashioned in high art;
But, by adorning men's "Best part",
You have secured the world's acclaim.
Now you gently lead the blind,
You educate and clothe the mind —
And slay grim grief with punster's dart.

Tho' you, like Jacob, may have "served,"
For seven long and weary years,
In hope and doubt, 'mid joy and tears —
And tho' mayhap, you're well deserved
To have your manly virtues sung
But more sweet wives than Brigham Young
The cenataph The Times well rears.

That "beasts, with seven horns," we've seen;
But every time such horns were blown,
We blue high songs around the thrown —
Perhaps that ailed you too, I ween,
The "beasts with seven heads have hissed,"

And Judas-like that may have kissed
Yet, fleeing, they have downward flown.

While you have made old Whitehall ring
With the clarion voices of The Times.
Which blended with the answering chimes
That floated from our Heardling;
We echoed back from GOUVENEUR
Thought for thought serene and pure —
Each free from scandal, fault or crimes,

Heaping full life's joyous measure,
Giving my best with gen'rous hand,
Thus may your joy and purse expand,
Till each o'erflows with golden treasures,
When your "cold toes to'rd the daisies"
We'll bid farewell, in heartfelt praises,
Sounding your virtues through the land.

This was written by J.T. Reynolds, editor of the Gouveneur Herald, and copied in the 5 May 1880 issue of The Whitehall Times.

**The Whitehall Times
December 22, 1883**

1883

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A Christmas Poem

This piece was written by Carol S. Bailey, an eight year old girl, especially for the Whitehall Times in December 1883. I suspect she was related to Mrs. C. H. Bailey in some way. Mrs. Bailey wrote short stories and historical pieces about the village from interviews she had with earlier citizens. It has a message, specifically for the little girl, but I think there is one for adults also.



A Christmas Jingle
I was sitting by the gate,
You might think it was rather late,
For a little girl of eight;
; But then — well, you just wait!

All my dollies were in bed,
(All but Grace who'd lost her head),
Each a sweet good night had said,
And I, their mamma, sat and read.

Their dainty stockings,
I'd hung in a row,
For this was Christmas Eve, you know,
And real mammas do just so,
So to my bed I could not go.

I couldn't for the world have taken a nap,
For I so wanted to see the dear chap
About the loveliest little fur cap-
There, lo and behold!
There came a rap.

Making my voice sound very old, I said,
"Come in, old Santa, out of the cold!
Fast asleep are my little fold,
And the Stockings are ready presents to hold.

Straight he went about the task,
But when for my gift I ventured to ask,
Thinking of course in his favor to bask,
His face looked like a comic mask.

“Only to children, Madam was I sent
Little capes for mamas-never were meant,
My presents all on your babies are spent”
And before I knew it, off he went.

Strange as it may seem,
This odd little dream,
That came to me in the firelight’s gleam
Held more truth that at first did see,
May play somebody all year,
But at Christmas time is perfectly clear,

If I’d live in the smile
Of the Saint so mild,
I must be what I am,
Just simply a little child.

The Whitehall Times
February 12, 1986

1884 to 1927
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Poetry of Eroma Marie {Petty} Stiles

In memory of her mother, Violet Stiles Persson compiled works of her poetry that she wrote from 1884 to 1927. She called it Musings of Emma Marie (Petty) Stiles. I received it as an addition to our Research Library.

Violet was brought up and educated in Whitehall and has fond memories of the place. She lived at 50 Saunders Street and some of the stanzas might well have been from scenes her mother observed daily. There is still a brook that flows down the hillside and there would have been the many flowers she mentioned. Lake George, Lake Champlain, even the disaster that overtook relatives were subjects of her words. It is a delightful booklet. Here are some examples:

The Brook
Oh, little brook, with dimpled face
And loud and noisy laughter,
If you don't slacken in your pace,
You'll meet with some disaster.

You wash the pebbles on the bank --
The red, the white, the yellow;
You always hurry in your pranks,
You are a cunning fellow.

The ferns and gentians on the bank
To you are friendly nodding;
You never turn, you saucy crank,
Just let them keep on bobbing.

You never stop to take a rest,
You have no time or leisure,
There must be something in your quest —
Where lies your hidden treasure?

You hurry down through vale and town,
Through leafy woods and pastures,
And leap into a larger stream,
To drown your noisy laughter.

E. M. Stiles

On Snow
Snow, snow, despicable snow,
How I dislike you.
How I wish you would go,
Down from the roof
with a sickening thud,
Covering the walks
with slush and with mud;
Poor Dad's aching back,
till he cries out with woe,
From using the shovel —
despicable snow!

And when, as a child,
I often heard said
That no one but acrobats
stand on their heads;
But since you covered the walk
with your sleet
I have stood on my head
more times than my feet.
And, Oh, Dear Lord,
when I'm called on to go,
May it be where

there never will be any snow.

E. M. Stiles

The Whitehall Independent
December 25, 1985

Christmas in Whitehall in 1885
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Two authors provided literary pieces especially for the Whitehall Times in the latter part of the nineteenth century. They were Minnie C. Ballard and Caro S. Bailey, wrote both poetry and prose. Here are their Christmas 1885 offerings:

God's Gift

by Minnie C. Ballard

Yule bells are ringing,
Merry voices ringing,
Hail to the Coming
Of the Price of Peace.

Sweet are the greetings,
Joyous the meetings
In happy homes
This glad, glad day.

No tear should ever
Fall now, for never
Was greater gift given
Free unto men.

Christ the Redeemer,
Christ, Holy Savior
Coming as a child
Yet mighty to save.

God's gift to mortals,
Earth's debt to heaven,
Praise, praise forever,
Forever, Amen.

Christmas Bells

by Caro S. Bailey

What sound breaks the stillness?
A chime of _the sweetest of bells,
In the Church's old tower is ringing,
And this is the story it tells.

How love brought a baby Redeemer
From his home in the skies so bright,
How love to this world of darkness
Brought touches of Heaven's own light.

And the echoes that come from the hillsides,
Bring back the sweet story, and say
The love that was born in such glory
Is the sun that lights this glad day.

The Whitehall Times
January 2, 1986

New Years Editorial for 1886
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

W. W. Wilkins of the Whitehall Times was famed for his novel, "sanctum onious levity," and editorials. For the 30 December 1885 issue of the paper he wrote this editorial entitled "The Old and the New Year" one hundred years ago:

Good-bye, old 1885! You have been a pretty good year, after all.

Like all preceding years, you have had your good and bad points.

You have brought joys and sorrows - in about the usual proportions!

Hearts have been pierced by your daggers, and many have been made happy with showers from your cornucopia. The New Year is about to dawn.

Turning over new leaves will be the order for a short time, but we greatly fear that many that are now turned over will be covered with unsightly blots before 1887 puts in an appearance.

Good resolutions are utilized with which to pave the roads in a country where snow shovels are no good except to transfer coal to the burning lake.

We welcome 1886 with open arms.

We throw ourselves and all we have into the warm embrace of 1886, and if it will be as good to us as 1885 has been, we shall fondly cling to it until it too passes away, with all the long list of years that have gone before.

With a Happy New Year to each and every reader of the Times We say:

GOD BLESS AND KEEP YOU ALL THROUGH THE YEAR 1886.

The New Year
She cometh in her virgin whiteness,
This dainty, winsome, glad New Year;

She smiles on all in her genial brightness,
And promises beautiful hope and cheer.
Her robes are wrought in some fairy place,
Fashioned by fingers as nimble as light,
And set with millions of shining jewels,
Pearls and diamonds in Pielids bright.
At morn she rose in regal beauty
To reign as queen o'er all the land;
Her kingdom's a realm unbounded,
She rules it with a magic wand.
All hail to thee fair and lovely New Year;
We own thy charms, thy witching power;
We feel the spell of the wondrous presence
And do homage for this hour.

St. Louis Magazine

**The Whitehall Times
September 25, 1886**

1886

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

This piece often shows up about Lake Champlain boats but never with the name of its author, as he was a member of the crew, credibility to the story is given. The Times repeated a printing of it in December 1886 by "popular demand.

"Wreck of the "Jule LaPlant"

By H.C. Moillieut, one of the crew

'Twas one dark night on Lac Champlan
De wind was blow, blow, blow,
When de crew of de wood scow 'Jule La Plant'
Get scare and run below.
For de wind she's blow like hurricane,
Bimeby she blow some more,
When de scow buss up on Lac Champlan
One half mile from de shore. .'
De Captain she's walk on de front deck,
She's walk on de hind deck too,
She's call de crew from up de hole,
She's call up de cook also.
De cook he's name was Rosa,
He come from Moneal,
Was chambermaid on a lumb barge
On de dat big Lachine canal.

De wind she blow from Nor, Eass, Wess,
De Sous wind she's blow too,
When Rosa says "My God, Captain,
What ever shall I do?"
De captain she's throw out de hank.
But still that scow she driff
for de crew can't passes on dat shore,
Becaus he lose dat skiff.
De night was dark, like one black cat,
De waver came high and fass,
When de captain took poor Rosa
And lash he to do mass,
Then de captain put on the life preserve
And he jump on de Lac,
And he says "Good-bye my
Rosa dear
I got down for your sak,"
Next morning, very early
About half-past two, three, four,
De captains, cook and wood scow,
Lay corpses on dat shore,
For de wind she's blow like hurricane,
Pretty soon she's blow some more,
For dat scow she's buss up on Lac Champlain
One half-mile from, de shore.

Moral

Now all good wood scow sailor man's,
Take warning by dat storm,
And go and marry one nice French girl,
And live on one good farm.
Den de wind may blow like hurricane,
Pretty soon she's blow some more,
You shant get drown on Lac Champlain
So long as you stop on shore.

The Whitehall Times
December 16, 1976

1894

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Ice used to be a winter crop in Whitehall in the late 1800's. It was a product sent by canal to New York City when nearby sources did not produce. Skenesborough Museum has ice machinery that was used on South Bay at that time.

Ice houses were large and important. In 1887 J. H. Sullivan, a store keeper, put up a large supply.

O. A. Horton had a large double building on the east side of the street by the railroad crossing on Williams Street.

This verse was found in a January, 1894 newspaper so the boom evidently lasted quite a while when no ice formed in main sources.

When The Ice Men Come

To my very good friend who keeps and inn
This little rhyme I respectfully spin
Whitehall had an ice boom
Not many years ago
I believe tho' not present
The people say 'so.
The tavern keepers made a fortune
How business did boom!
And now they want again the time
When ice men come

The town is going crazy,
All sing this refrain:
"No ice on the Hudson
No ice down in Maine;
We'll lay in a sock of everything-
Especially of rum.
For everybody'll have the 'dough'
When the ice men come"

A jolly land lord believes this
Implicitly 'tis seen;
He already feels in fancy,
The "old long green"
He hears a s how these fellows
Are always on a bum
He thinks he'll have "Stuff to burn"

When the ice men come.

Every morning rising early
At night when he retires
If the mercury's 'bove freezing
'Tis all his heart's desires.
He'll buttonhole some friend
And say "Just keep it mum,
But I think I'll fill a stocking
When the ice men come."

He'll ask if you think 'tis possible
You must answer "Very!"
Then he'll take you down to the "Genie"
And treat you to a "cherry"
Well , we hope 'twill all come true,
And that he'll make a goodly sum,
We also hope he'll "Give us a rest!"
When the ice men come.

The Whitehall Times
December 20, 1973

1886?

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Earlier advertisements in newspapers had a variety of devices to attract attention. Some were upside down; some had the trademark of the store like a big saw or a watch; still others used startling announcements like "Woman found dead in Whitehall;" white space was used effectively.

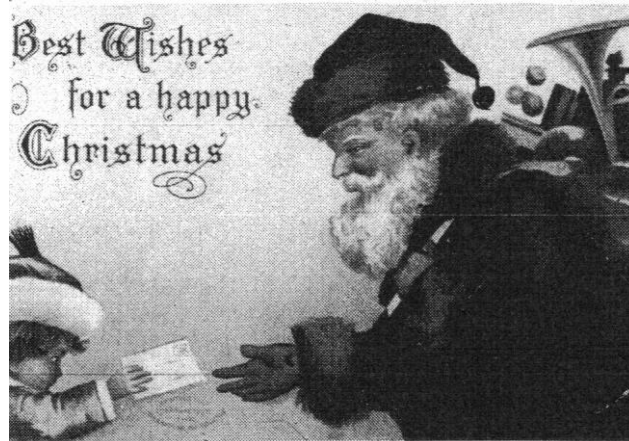
This advertisement appealed to the spirit of the time of Christmas in a December issue of 1886. It isn't an advertisement in the usual sense but in another it is for it was on the editorial page written for the paper as a cheery message to its readers.

IT ALMOST IS CHRISTMAS. WE
HARDLY CAN WAIT TO HANG
UP THE STOCKINGS ALONGSIDE
THE GRATE. A BUSTLE AND
SPARKLE PERVADES ALL
AROUND; THE FIR TREES ARE
CUT AND THERE'S SNOW ON
THE GROUND. THE CHILDREN
EXCITED AND THRILLED WITH
DELIGHT ARE DREAMING OF
SANTA CLAUS ALL THROUGH THE
NIGHT. THEY WAKE UP AND
LISTEN TO SOUNDS ON THE ROOF
WHICH IS TO THEIR FANCIES
A REINDEER'S WEE HOOOF. THE
OLD FOLKS, MORE EAGER THAN
EVEN THE TOTS, ARE BURNING
WITH SECRETS AND BRIM-
ING WITH PLOTS. MINCE
PIES IN THE PANTRIES
DELICIOUS AND SWEET
OF MOTHERS OWN
MAKING ARE READY
TO EAT. IT ALMOST
IS CHRISTMAS. ST.
NICK IN HIS SLEIGH
ALL LOADED WITH
TREASURES IS COMING
THIS WAY. HIS REIN-
DEERS ARE FLYING A DAY
OR TWO MORE AND DOWN THROUGH
THE CHIMNEY HE'LL BOUND TO THE
FLOOR. AND THEN IF THE STOCKINGS ARE
NOT IN THEIR PLACE IN SORROW HE'LL
VANISH AND LEAVE NOT A TRACE. SO
HANG UP THE STOCKINGS BY CHIM-
NIES WITH CARE THE NIGHT
BEFORE CHRISTMAS.
ST. NICK WILL BE
THERE.

The Whitehall Independent
December 24, 1986

1896

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



A MERRY, MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

H. C. Dobbs was a Whitehaller who wrote many verses, especially for special occasions. This he wrote for Christmas in 1896. It's titled "The Christmas Stocking." It was printed in the shape of a stocking.

It is almost Christmas. We hardly can wait to hang up the stockings alongside the grate. A bustle and sparkle pervades all around; the fir trees are out and there's snow on the ground. The children excited and thrilled with delight are dreaming of Santa Claus all through the night. They wake up and listen to sounds on the roof which to their fancies a reindeer's wee hoof. The old folks more eager that even the tots are burning with secrets and brimming with pots. Mince pies in the pantries delicious and sweet of mother's own making are ready to eat. It almost is Christmas. St. Nick in his sleigh all loaded with treasures is coming this way. His reindeer are flying a day or two more and down through the chimneys he'll bound to the floor. And then if the stockings are not in their place in sorrow he'll vanish and not leave a trace. So hang up the stockings by chimneys with care the night before Christmas. St. Nick will be there.

The Whitehall Times
June 15, 1978

Whitehall Authors in 1898
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

These poems were written at the time the Company I were off to the Spanish American War service. Although they did not get to Cuba, they had to withstand the hardships of camp and plague.

The Gallant Ninth
By Gus Jones — 1898

It was on the 2nd day
In the year eighteen ninety-eight;
When many a brave lad of Whitehall
Left at their country's call.
How grand they looked all dressed in blue.
With guns across their shoulders too;
They left to endure the battle's noise,
Our gallant 9th Separate boys.
Remember the Maine!"
Were the words they cried.
We'll avenge the brave sailors who so bravely died;
We'll make Spain fall at our command.
And Cuba's flag shall wave o'er free land.

Our Boys
By S.B.J. — 1898

We little thought three months ago,
The call to arms would come;
But when the "Maine" with her men went down
Something had to be done.
Not that we fight for revenge alone.
But, 'twas the missing link
That spoke for Cuba's tortured sons,
And made the people think.
We hoped for peace without a war!
But the Spaniard would not yield;
So our people left their homes to go
When came the call for volunteers
"Our boys," their blue coats donned,
And, should they have to face the foe,
To duty they'll respond.
May our side prove right, and the right prevail,

Both on land and sea,
And our watchword ever —
"Remember the Maine,"
Help make Cuba's free.
May the God who watches over all,
In war as well as peace;
Protect and save our Whitehall boys
Till war and trouble cease.

The Boys of Whitehall

By Mrs. Aurelia Hammond 1898

. Won't the sun brightly shine
In our own native land,
Won't it be a grand day for us all,
iWhen with joy we shall meet
Our brave soldier band
When we welcome the boys of Whitehall.
Our brave boys went away,
Ready to fight at their country's call,
Their blue coats will be dusty;
But their hearts will be gay.
When we welcome the boys of Whitehall.
We parted from them
With sad hearts and sore,
And fast the sad teardrops did fall;
But won't we rejoice
That war shadows are o'er
When we welcome the boys of Whitehall.
Brave Captain Greenough
Left many sad homes,
When he took the brave boys, one and all;
But with glad shouts of victory
In triumph they come
When we welcome the boys of Whitehall.
The bells shall all ring,
And glad music shall sound,
As God's blessing upon them we call;
They have well earned their laurels,
And glory their crown
When we welcome the boys of Whitehall.
Our, flag waves in glory
War shadows shall cease,
That has darkened our land with a pall;
We'll thank God for brave men,
For victory and peace,

When we welcome the boys of Whitehall.

The Whitehall Times
April 21, 1983

The Shores of Dear Old Lake Champlain - 1898
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Recently two pieces of sheet music were given to the Historical Society by Dolores Fafard. One is instrumental; the other is a song entitled "On the Shores of Dear Old Lake Champlain". It was written by Guy W. Woodward and composed by Howard S. Hall. The printer was H. S. Hall of Sandy Hill and the date with English rights reserved 1903.

One wonders if it was produced to be in time for the tercentenary of the discovery of Lake Champlain in 1909. Shades of Edgar Allen Poe's "Annabelle Lee". Here are the words:

You can talk about your old
Kentuck home so far away,
And your pretty little girls of Tennessee.
But give me a home on the shore of Lake Champlain
For that is the home for me.
'Twas there in my boyhood I'd with my sweetheart be,
As we sailed upon the Lake and she sang sweet songs to me.
The now so far away, still my thoughts will constant stray,
To the shores of dear old Lake Champlain.
(Chorus)
Lake Champlain, Lake Champlain
How I long to see the dear old lake again,
And my sweetheart fair with her waving golden hair
Long the shore of dear old Lake Champlain
Lake Champlain, Lake Champlain
How I long to see my sweetheart's face again.
But she lies 'neath the sod,
near the waving golden rod,
On the shores of dear old Lake Champlain.
"Tho now I'm old and gray and very far away.
I can hear the rippling waters kiss the shore
If I could able be just once again to wee
T'would bring me back to days of yore,
When the twilight shades would fall
I could hear the waters call,
My sweetheart to that shady bower
Where we spent such happy hours.
But her spirit is with God,

Though she lies beneath the sod
On the shores of dear old Lake Champlain.

The Whitehall Times
August 18, 1973

1909 - 1910?

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The following poem was discovered in a scrapbook given to Skenesborough Museum by Mrs. Roxana Blackmore. The item is undated but according to the rest of the clippings was about 1909. Miss Ada McFerran visited Kansas City where she met poet Frederick Atwood, a native of Whitehall. In the book he presented to her was the poem he wrote of his memories of Whitehall.

WHITEHALL

Nestled in between the hills
Down whose rugged sides the rills
Leap and laugh 'mid daffodils,
Lies Whitehall,
Thru the middle of the town
Wood Creek carries water down
To the bay upon which frown
Mountains, tall.
And there, too, Champlain's canal
With its locks tyrannical
Holds the flood a criminal,
At Whitehall.
There on the towpath plods the mule
Careless of the ridicule
That, tho his ev'ry rule, Can't appal.
But he's mulish just the same,
Kicks so hard, yet looks so tame
As any brute that ever came
To Whitehall.
Still I've come to think that he
Does about the same as we
Would want to do were we to be
' In his stall.
East-Nor'-east, as sailors say,
My birthplace was not far away:
Six miles, to be exact, it lay
From Whitehall.
Vermont's high hills rose to the east,
Crowned evergreen as for a feast,

Until to mountain-peaks increased
That verdant wall.
And westward on the horizon's brim
The Adirondacks, massive, grim.
Stretched northward farther and more dim
From Whitehall.
To me those Titan walls hemmed in
A mighty world, wherein the din
Seemed surely great enough to win
The hearts of all.
And when a boy, I could not see
What could prevent man, bird or bee
From being wild with ecstasy
In Whitehall.
I thought that town was near the skies,
And had I had a chance to rise
I would have said, "This will suffice,
You needn't call."
And there were streamers on the bay,
And yachts and row-boats were at play,
And rafts and barges always lay
At Whitehall.
The water filled me with delight;
At sight of it my eyes grew bright,
I'd run away - which wasn't right!
To see, a fall.
And there were other things to see
That always interested me,
And made me ever want to be
In Whitehall.
The massive piles of lumber there,
The smokestacks tall that rose in air
So very high they made me stare,
When I was small.
The railroad ran right in the street;
It wasn't very nice to meet,
With horses skittish, young and fleet,
In Whitehall.
Then, too, that tunnel took my eye,
And made me wonder when and why
They went straight thru a hill so high;
It made me crawl!
And there were endless things to buy,
If one had cents; it made me sigh
Most ev'ry time I drew nigh
To Whitehall.

My wealth was, small oft time non existent
Which, like as not, was for the best,
For had I worn old Croesus' vest,
I'd've bought it all!

The Whitehall Independent
January 18, 1984

1910?
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A one time resident of Whitehall produced a volume of poems while he sojourned in Kansas around 1910. Frederick Atwood presented a copy of the book to Ada McFerran when she visited that state.

Whitehall

Nestled in between the hills
Down whose rugged sides the rills
Leap and laugh 'mid daffodils
Lies Whitehall
Thru the middle of the town
Wood Creek carries water down
To the bay upon which frown Mountains tall.
And there, too Champlain's canal
With its locks tyrannical
Holds the flood a criminal
At Whitehall
There on plods the mule
Careless of the ridicule
That, the his ev'ry rule
Can't appall .
But he's mulish just the same
Kicks so hard, yet looks as tame
As any brute that ever came
To Whitehall.
Still I've come to think that he
Does about the same as we
Would want to do were we to be
In his stall.
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My birthplace was not far away;
Six mites, to be exact, it lay
From Whitehall.
Vermont's high hills rose to the east,

Crowned evergreen as for a feast,
Until to mountain peaks increased
The verdant wall.
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And I had a chance to rise I would have said, "This will suffice. You needn't call."
And there were steamers on the bay,
And yachts and rowboats were at play,
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At Whitehall.
The water filled me with delight;
At sight of it my eyes grew bright.
I'd run away - which wasn't right -
To see a fall.
And there were other things to see
That always interested me,
And made me ever want to be
In Whitehall.
The massive piles of lumber there,
The smokestacks tall that rose in air
So very high they made me stare,
When I was small.
The railroad ran right in the street;
It wasn't very nice to meet,
With horses skittish, young and fleet.

The Whitehall Independent
August 1, 1984

1920
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

This verse, written by John J. Ingalls for the Champlain Silk Mill Square Deal in 1920, could have been the boy's own.

Opportunity
Master of human destinies am I,
Fame, love and fortune on my footsteps wait;
Cities and fields I walk; I penetrate
Deserts and seas remote, and passing by
Hovel, the Mart and palace, soon or late
I knock unbidden once at every gate.
If sleeping, wake - if feasting, rise before
I turn away. It is the hour of fate.
And they who follow me reach every state
Mortals desire, and conquer every foe
Save death; but these who doubt or hesitate
Condemned to failure, penury and woe,
Seek me in vain and uselessly implore.
I answer not, and I return no more.

The Whitehall Times
November 5, 1981

Collected in Whitehall - 1920
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In the 1920's there was an instructor of English literature at what is now SUNY of Albany, then known as State College for Teachers, or earlier still State Normal School, by the name of Harold W. Thompson. A rotund man with thick glasses and much vitality, he was almost adored by the students in his classes; so much so that they were willing to spend time in their own home towns searching out local color folk lore for him.

From all over the state came their stories, poems, local sayings, and so on, that he filed year after year in a filing cabinet. In later years he transferred to Cornell University and in 1940 produced a selection of the material in a book called "Body, Boots & Britches."

Since the material was statewide in location, no one area had a great amount of its history. I went through it by index for stories of Washington County. Whitehall had one

resource. It would be fun to know who from Whitehall attending State College in Albany presented this poem to Mr. Thompson,

"The following poem, which used to be sung at camps to amuse the soldiers, was learned in Whitehall."

Uncle Sam's Funeral

'Twas but a little while ago
That the Copperheads were found
With their great Vallandinghammers
With A-hammering around;
And they tried to scare us
With their doleful sounds.
Um-ha, tra, la, la, la, la, la.
Said they, "Oh people dear,
Uncle Sam is dead
Let us put him in his coffin
And hammer down the lid."
And to work they went
As the word they said
Uncle Sam, he then arose
Like a great giant, hale and strong,
With his people and his army
And a glorious, loyal throng;
And the Coppers sneaked
To where they all belonged.

The Whitehall Times October 3, 1985

Bits and Pieces of the Year 1922 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In the columns Grave and Gay by "Gaygra" the author had this to say of some verse that was sent to him: The lad or dame who wrote or stole the following and sent it in for this column isn't bad - a lot worse geeks than he think they are poets.

Old Whitehall

I am not much on description
And my verses may be short,
But in Good old Washington County,
In the State of old New York,
There's a picturesque country village
With an old familiar name
At the foot of old Skene Mountain
At the head of Lake Champlain.
On the west are mountain ranges

With their trees of evergreen
In this valley down extending
Lies the village in between; T
There floods of golden sunlight
From the heaven's limpid blue
Are reflected from the steeples
On the waters flowing through;
Waters sparkle in the fountains
As they gently rise and fall,
And the streets are cool and shady
"Neath its elm trees so tall.
Songs of wild birds wake the echoes
On a waning summer's day
As the halo of the sunset
Crowns the hilltops far away,
Then a-down the valley zephyrs
Seem a lullaby to croon,
With the village wrapped in slumber
"Neath the silvery shining moon.
Tolling bells upon the Sabbath,
Ringing out in mellow tones,
Call the people forth to worship
From their peaceful valley homes.
In the valley by the river,
Where the elms grow so tall,
Where the wild birds wake the echoes
Lies the town of old Whitehall,
At the foot of old Skene Mountain,
With its tangled bush and brake,
Where the breezes sweep the valley
Off the bosom of the lake.

The Whitehall Independent
May 25, 1983

Poem *Unknown Year (kb)*
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Boyhood

Minnie C. Ballard wrote poems of Whitehall. This she wrote about boyhood.
(I wonder why she didn't write also about girlhood.)

Making willow whistles,
Dandelions curling

Catching little minnows
Where the brooks are purling.

Whittling bows and arrows,
Making kite and ball;
Many are the riches,
Placed at boyhood's call.

"Going in a swimming",
Dancing in the sun,
Making tiny mill ponds
for boats to run upon.

Skating in the winter,
Building forts of snow,
What a boy don't think of
Nobody can know.

The Whitehall Times
December 24, 1986

Merry Christmas to All - *Unknown Year (kb)*
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

"In the olden days" The Whitehall Times had several writers who produced special works for its pages. One was Minnie C. Ballard. I've discovered recently that this name was from a Whitehall family. Perhaps someone can furnish some data.

God's Gift
by Minnie C. Ballard

Yule bells are ringing,
Merry voices ringing,
Hail to the Coming
Of the Prince of Peace.

Sweet are the greetings,
Joyous the meetings
In happy homes
This glad, glad day.

No tear should ever
Fall now, for never
Was greater gift given

Free unto men.

Christ the Redeemer,
Christ, Holy Savior
Coming as a child
Yet mighty to save.

God's gift to mortals,
Earth's debt to heaven,
Praise, praise forever,
Forever, Amen.

And then there are "Christams Plums" gleaned by editors from other newspapers:
Santa Claus So does the cat.

It is the Christmas dolls that decoy our dollars.
Dressing a Christmas does not make it any more spruce.
It seems strange that a prosperous Holiday business
generally requires a great many checks.
Half the world is ignorant of
what the other half is doing
just now. Reason –
Christmas is coming.

The Whitehall Times
December 31, 1987

Unknown Year (kb)
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

"The Devil's Address"

Hail, the New Year, with what a noiseless
It steals upon us ere we are aware
Passing along on its mysterious race
Whence coming none can tell, going we know not where
But hearts will wither as it passes by.
Alas, sometimes, how one short year deceives
The young, the loved, the beautiful will die.
Falling around us like the fading leaves
When though the forests sere the winds of autumn grieves

Perchance someone, whose name is herein spoken
Before there comes another New Year's day
Will pass, with brow all pale and spirit waken
Down deaths dread vale to darkness and decay!

But mournful thoughts like those do ill heseem
A merry printer's devil such as I
None such are in my column, for I deem
As the great world goes hastily, jolting by
Better by for we laugh at it then cry.

So in that column over which I preside
At top of which is seen the laughing face with a broad grin and mouth stretched open
wide

All sorts of comic things shall find a place
Into that column through the coming year
The little frolic streams of wit will run
There I, the senior Devil, will appear
Wiith the rich joke, and rare myrth moving pun
Serving up to customers my weekly dish of fun

A New Year is at hand, Joy unto all.
Flowers in your paths and gladnum in your hearts
Across your ways no dark shadows fall
Making the bright world sad as it departs
Pleasure and peace and plenty may it bring
And cast them down profusely at your feet.
And may you drink from our delights pure spring
Its ever gushing water clear and sweet
Until next New Years day when we again shall meet.

Editor Wilkins of the Whitehall Times assumed the role of the printer's Devil and wrote this for a New Years greeting to his readers.

The Whitehall Times
December 25, 1975

Unknown Year (kb)
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Recently an alumnus of Pittsburgh State University, in those days Pittsburgh Normal School, gave an address in that institution. Now at 102 years he is still making yearly trips to Florida where he keeps busy with various crafts; this year pine needle work in making baskets and trays. An author of history books on Moreau and Wilmington, he has also printed a book of poems. He was the first high school principal that this town historian studied under in Moriah. Here is his Christmas poem for this year.

The Shepherds
Are guarding the Sheep;
The Wise Men

Are following a Star;
The World
Lies, silently, asleep;
Heaven and Earth
Await with gates ajar;
The Savior
Lies in a manger, low
The Prophets
For long, the story had told;
God guards the stables Glow;
Lost Ones
Hail God's gift of Heavenly Gold.
My Wish:
To You, O my Beloved
To You
I ask riches, untold.
May God's Grace
To You be awarded;
May Heaven's Gift
Ever to you unfold.

Oliver W. Winch

A Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to the readers of this column.

The Whitehall Times
May 11, 1978

Unknown Year (kb)
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

WHITEHALL

If you seek atmosphere at all
Then set your sights upon Whitehall;
The cordial air and friendly flair
Promote reluctance to leave there;
One found it so when World War
One Made tasks less work than sort of fun —
The townsfolks did their "bit" withal,
A credit to this same Whitehall!
The "D&H" on single track
Moved troops and goods with great impact;
The Barge Canal, both then and now,
Keeps serving as it best knows how;
In times remote, kids out of school

Usurped it as a swimming pool,
 Its bridges, for these youthful hordes
 Became their-summer diving boards!
 Ah! Yes, it's easy to recall
 The joyful facets of Whitehall!
 The wooden bridge that spanned South Bay
 Was sacrificed the "PROGRESS" way;
 When cars were new, young men would dare
 To turn them 'round (their riders scared)
 Midway upon the narrow span
 To prove the prowess of the man!
 The silk mills with their sheen and floss
 Are muted mem'ries of their loss
 To science and the doors it slammed
 To give us nylons for those "GAMS"!
 But folks up here were on the ball —
 They rode with progress in Whitehall!
 They've made new jobs and learned new skill
 Things hum and whistle in "them hills" —
 They're making things completely new,
 Of steel and brass and plastics too;
 You ought to visit us this fall
 And learn why we all love Whitehall!!!

— L. J. Foley

The Whitehall Times
November 14, 1984

Unknown Year (kb)
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Who Makes Up the Railroad
 by L. W. Bohn

The train dispatcher spends his days,
 When traffic's smooth or in a haze,
 Arranging points for trains to meet,
 And jotting figures on a sheet.
 He says, "It's Me;
 I am the brains
 That keeps a-moving all those trains.
 I keep them going night and day
 Upon the busy right of way.
 Without my will they cannot start;
 I play a most important part.

And so, as anyone can see,
The railroad most depends on Me."
Said the engineer while oiling round,
"The dispatcher's sure a busy hound.
But it's Me who sits, eyes straight ahead
A-watching signals green and red...
I am the guy," said the engineer,
"Whose mind's alert and eye is clear,
Who watches out for precious lives
Of children, sweethearts, husbands, wives.
I drive ahead through snow and storm :
In winter cold and summer warm.
I rather guess you'll all agree
The railroad most depends on Me."
The fireman said to the engineer,
"You may be right but looky here,
Don't you forget, if you please, by heck,
The boy down on the rolling deck;
As she's a-reeling down the track:
The boy who keeps her hot and poppin'
Without restin,, without stoppin',
I'll tell the world, and it's no dream,
I am the boy who makes the steam,
You can't deny it, no siree, T
he railroad most depends on Me!"

Postmasters and Post Offices

The Whitehall Independent
September 21, 1983

Post Office Affairs
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Only two postage stamps were issued in the United States in 1883--those of George Washington and Andrew Jackson. But the issuance made news. The color for the new four cent or double rate stamp was a shade of green, somewhat darker than the one in use. The new stamp was that of Andrew Jackson with a handsome design. Distribution to local post offices "was on 1 September to be ready for change of letter postage on 1 October.

At this time also, new postal notes were ready for delivery. They were printed on yellow paper and engraved in brown ink with black letters. The back was engraved in green ink. The size of an ordinary commercial envelope it was made payable to bearer,

anytime within three months from the last day of the month of issue. It was redeemable at the office at which it was drawn or the office at which it was issued. Original notes became void at limitation of the time it was first issued. These notes were in slight demand on 3 September, but Postmaster Clark was ready to supply them. Prices were three cents each for sums less than five dollars. The notes could be used in commercial transactions the same as bank notes or currency.

At this time the post office was relieved of an irritating problem of whether the post masters should give a detective or others interested in tracing suspected persons information obtained from the addresses of letters passing through their hands. Some had and some had not. But now a decision had been handed down: this practice should not continue where it existed. It was determined that any knowledge of a personal character acquired by a post master in his official capacity must be regarded as strictly personal.

The Whitehall Times
June 12, 1980

Post Office Mural
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



Photo by K. Bartholomew (August 2009)

During the 1930's and 1940's outstanding artists were hired by the government to paint representative pictures in 1500 large and small community post offices. These pictures are deemed a valuable part of the country's heritage that should be preserved. The Department of the Interior requested that each of these pictures be inventoried and that a photographic record be placed in the government files.

Accordingly Postmaster Joseph Scott sent a copy of Whitehall's mural made by G&M Photos to Washington.

In 1940 artist Axel Horn painted a mural on the front wall of Whitehall's Post Office which was erected in 1936. The scene is called "Settlement of Skenesborough." It represents a family on a bluff overlooking the lake. The scene depicted is at the end of the day when men are building a fire and collecting additional wood from nearby trees, and the mother and children are relaxing from a day's journey. The mode of transportation indicates horseback.

Whitehall was settled by the many families that came in from New England areas to the intervals around Whitehall where they could carry on the industries they were used to in their former homes. The concept of a new life is general. The colors of the mural are soft and pleasing. The picture is good to look at.

Nearby post offices had themes that were not necessarily of the origin of the community. Fort Edward's is entitled "Lock on Champlain Canal, Fort Edward." Hudson Falls has three: "Scenes and Activities of Hudson," "Transportation," and "Mail by Airplane" painted in 1937. Lake Placid's is "Scene of Winter".

The Whitehall Times

July 22, 1981

Post Office

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

When you were in the post office on the Inauguration day of the new United States Postal Service did you notice again the mural over the front door? The artist was Axel Horn who submitted designs in a nationwide competition under the auspices of the Fine Arts of the Federal Works Agency.

Mr. Horn's explanation of the mural says it represents the first settlers of Skenesborough "as they made camp on a bluff near the shores of Lake Champlain. Perhaps the most significant Incident in the picture is the building of the first fire, which may be said to mark the town's beginning. Surrounding the fire-makers, other colonists, who are the indentured servants of Philip Skene's, unload horses and prepare to camp. It is the beginning of a new existence for them in a strange land.

The baby which the boy is handing to its mother is, to me, a symbol of their new life."

The mural is, indeed, symbolic of a new life among colonists — and the theme a general one for almost a thousand post offices and other types of federal buildings it decorated. Whether it is a special community or not depends on the history of the place.

Whitehall's history differs a trifle from the concept of the picture. Her settlement was made in the intervals of fertile land rather than on a bluff. Both land and water routes brought her early settlers and horseback riders certainly are characteristic. Indentured servants came later to Whitehall when Philip Skene made later trips to England.

The mural is an interesting one, soft in color and pleasing to the imagination. Look at it again when you visit the post office.

In numerous incidences I have written of the importance of research for accuracy in events and dates, for searching for more information about the post office I found the speech delivered by Wrighton Chambers when the present building was dedicated 6 June 1940. He had had access to the Post Office Department records and reported that the first post office in Whitehall was established 14 September 1797 as Whitehall Landing with Melancton Wheeler as postmaster. This will correct the date of Melancton Wheeler's appointment from the 1796 of Johnson's HISTORY OF WASHINGTON COUNTY and

Holden's LOCAL HISTORY SKETCHES. One other change in the list of post masters as given was Nathaniel Hall's from 1805 to 1803. I think we can call the Post Office Department records an original source.

The Whitehall Times
March 8, 1984

The Post Office
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In the Fort Ticonderoga collection of Skene papers is the parchment commission issued to Philip Skene as postmaster. It was signed by Benjamin Franklin and John Foxcroft, postmasters general of the Northern District of North America 1 June 1771. By 5 June, Skene could collect 20 percent on the proceeds of the post office. This was four years before Skenesborough was captured by the New England and we have no record of whether he ever collected any revenue.

During the Revolution there was no public mail to Skenesborough. Mr. Holden conjectured that the few letters that were transmitted had to be sent by private message. By custom, a rider would take it upon himself to carry letters after making the best bargain with the senders that he could. The first official appointment of a postmaster in Whitehall occurred 1 April 1798. Melancton Wheeler was appointed and served until 1 October. Where the post office was located we have to imagine. In 1847, under postmaster Dr. Atherton Hall, the post office was removed (from where?) into the "old stand, corner of the Phoenix block on Canal Street." This was the triangular block that stood at the junction of Canal and Broad (now North Main). This block burned in 1852 and was replaced with another block similar in shape. In it the earlier village rooms were located.

Events in postal service moved fairly slowly. Money orders were issued for the first time 21 July 1865. The first rural routes were traveled 1 September but the local deliveries did not begin until 15 November 1918.

In the Washington County Directory of 1871 to 1872, the list of inhabitants gave their post office addresses for location followed by their occupations. Whitehall has had 29 postmasters since 1798 and at least four locations for post offices.

The Whitehall Times
March 15, 1984

The Post Office Buildings
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Finding the locations of early buildings is somewhat of a difficult task. According to an early report, an early post office was situated in the Flatiron building.

That area is fairly easy to locate, but just where in the block was it? The 1866 map of Whitehall has the letters PO indicating the building in the space devoted to Broad Street. It could mean midway of the block between corner of Broad and Canal Streets on the east side or on the west side. The latter may have been the case in 1866, as an old account says the post office was moved from the Flatiron building directly across Broad Street into the Bebo Building. This would be a building between High Street and Clinton Avenue.

The third housing of the post office was in the Griswold Arcade building, south of the Griswold Iron Front and north of the plain building of another Griswold building, in the one with all the architectural designs. One account says the move was made in 1910, but the headline of the newspaper of 7 August 1908 says, "New Post Office Has All the Style. Opened Thursday August 6 in the Griswold Arcade Building." At the time, the postmaster was W. C. Wood, who served from 1905 to 1914. This location was in the business center of the village at that time and the building large enough to hold the offices of the post office. Mr. A. H. Griswold adapted the long and high-ceilinged structure with steel ceilings and steel wainscoting and transoms for good ventilation. He furnished it with the modern and stylish furniture of quartered oak, government regulations of the time. A 55 foot lengthwise partition provided the office to the south and the west end for business, and the north side for lobby. Mr. Wood's offices were at the left front with the various post office windows and call boxes behind him all the way. There were 600 call boxes and 300 hundred combination boxes. Keys were not required. This contrasts with the present 350 boxes in the present post office. But this is accounted for by the fact that we have home deliveries.

Chipped glass sections were in the partition near the front. A new safe in the office was second only to the new safe of two years earlier in the new National Bank (The Town Office). A tin shop was on the second floor. Editorial note said: Postmaster Wood would insist upon perfect order and cleanliness.

Thirty years later, Postmaster Burns was in the same position as Postmaster Wood. There were the struggles in details to obtain the building, arrange for the moving, and the multitude of problems that would attend such reorganization. But it was accomplished and the official opening was held after business had been resumed in the new building. (James Farley was not able to attend). That year the Whitehall Post Office had the greatest business in several years, with 21,000 pieces mailed, 100 percent more than the previous year.

The Whitehall Times

March 15, 1984

The Post Office Buildings

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

With much research, the lands of Whitehall can be traced back to the map of the forfeited land of Philip Skene. A ledger in the Washington County files contains a description of the lots into which it was divided with the names of the purchasers.

Before the present post office was built, a search for its lot was made. Interesting bits can be learned from it. The same phraseology is kept in it throughout.

The original grant was included in the lot granted to Philip Skene on 13 March 1765, through Lieutenant Gov. Cadwallader Golden. Although it was given him much before and his settlement made in 1759. 22 July he mortgaged the land to the Society of the Hospital in the City of New York. 22 October 1779 Skene's lands were forfeited and on 12 May 1784 ordered sold.

Alexander Webster was appointed by Governor George Clinton as Commissioner of Forfeitures. He ordered the land surveyed, paying a little over fourteen pounds for the service. This price has often been given as the sale price of all of Skene's lands in many early accounts.

General John Williams of Salem purchased much of the Skenesborough forfeited land and later willed it to his son Colonel John Williams. Lot 2 contained the portion of land on which the post office stands. One Stephen Chapin took a portion of this lot, the west part, on 1 April 1820, agreeing to pay rent yearly. If at the end of five years he had paid \$180 and the yearly rent, he would have a deed to the place. According to the records, at the end of six years he had paid \$78.21. This might account for the fact that on 28 August 1899, Fannie Williams, granddaughter of Colonel John Williams who had willed his lands to her, could give a quitclaim deed to Joseph E. Royal.

Stephen willed the lot to his widow Lucina and their children, Charles, Richard, James, Martha and Daniel. By 1 April 1848 Lucina and Daniel had deeded their share to the three boys and the next year Martha and Daniel deeded theirs to them also. By 17 February all had gone to Richard. The land was described as beginning at the northeast corner of a lot owned by Drake Benjamin. This lot was later owned by Henry Gaylor and still later by William Van Liew. It ran northerly on the west side "of the road leading to Fort Ann", later known as Canal Street, Main Street and now Broadway. It ran westerly along an alley, now called Chapin Alley (recently I heard it called Scott Alley) to the easterly line of West Street. This street was evidently very early named because of its position in the village.

By 1 June 1893 this land was given over to Robert H. Cook through various transactions of Harriet Chapin, widow of Richard Chapin. The same year a warranty deed was given to Joseph Royal and John Morris and on 28 August 1899 a quitclaim deed by Fannie H. Williams to the same men through the will of her grandfather. In 1901 Joseph Royal received the land from John R. Morris. This brings us to the ownership family when the post office lot was obtained for its government service.

Research such as this that Lawyer Alonson Bartholomew did takes time but it tells the history of Whitehall in terms of family names and traces street locations.

The Whitehall Times
July 8 1971

1771

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

As a part of its inauguration of the new United States Postal Service, the local postal officials have on display a copy of the. Commission to Philip Skene signed by Benjamin Franklin and John Foxcroft June 1, 1771. The original is in the archives of Fort Ticonderoga.

Accompanying the commission copy was a portrait of the first postmaster north of Albany, Philip Skene. It was copied by Bertrand Fafard from the portrait hanging in Skenesborough Museum.

For those who did not see the display in the post office, this is a copy of that commission.

Benjamin Franklin, and John Foxcroft, Esquires, D. Post-Masters-General of the Northern District of North America.

To all whom the Presents shall come, Greetings: KNOW YE, that we the said BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, and JOHN FOXCROFT, ESQUIRES, having received good Testimony of the Fidelity, and Loyalty to His Majesty, of PHILIP SKENE, ESQUIRE, and reposing great Trust and Confidence in the Knowledge, Care, and Ability of the Said PHILIP SKENE do execute the Office and Duties required of a Deputy Post Master having Deputed, Constituted, Authorized, and Appointed, and by these Presents to Depute, Constitute, Authorize and Appoint the said PHILIP SKENE to be our lawful and sufficient Deputy, to execute the Office of Deputy-Postmaster at Skenesborough — to have, hold, use, exercise and enjoy the said Office, with the liberty of charging 20 per Ct on Ye Nt proceeds of sd Office for his trouble— from the Fifth Day of June for the Term of Three Years, or until removed by us, under such Conditions, Covenants, Provisioes, Payments, Orders, and Instructions, to be faithfully observed, performed, and done, by the Said Deputy, and Servants, as He or they shall from time to time, receive from US, or by our Order. In Witness whereof, We the said Benjamin Franklin and John Foxcroft, have hereunto set our Hands, and caused the Seal of our Office to be affixed:

Dated the First Day of June 1771 in the Eleventh Year of His MAJESTY'S Reign
FOR BEN. FRANKLIN

and self

JOHN FOXCROFT

During Whitehall's Bicentennial Celebration in 1959 a list of Whitehall's postmasters was compiled. Crisfield Johnson in his HISTORY OF WASHINGTON COUNTY says the post office in Whitehall was established in 1796 but Melancton Wheeler was postmaster in 1790. Horatio N. Parker at twelve years of age, carried the mail between Whitehall and Vergennes, seventy-one miles, the trip occupying two days on a weekly basis. Melancton Wheeler, April 1, 1790; Nathaniel Hall, October 1, 1805; Gideon Taft, July 1, 1809; John Bliss, October 1, 1815; Ezra Smith, January 4, 1819; James G. Caldwell, June 27, 1829; William H. Kirkland, March 25, 1841; Atherton Hall, October 12, 1844; W. G. Wolcott, April 17, 1849; Harvey W. Buell, May 4, 1853;

Atherton Hall, August 17, 1858; Ruckard H. Winter, May 26, 1861; Ollf Abel-Able, September 29, 1864; Tracy Cowan, June 3, 1865; Horatio N. Parke, February 5, 1866; John F. Clarke, January 30, 1879; O. A. Manville, August 6, 1886; Andrew J. Taft, January 9, 1891; Henry C. Hall, March 1, 1895; C. W. Harding, March 3, 1893; W. G. C. Wood, November 3, 1905; David E. Brett, February 5, 1914; Henry Neddo, January 22, 1923; W. T. Burns, February 1, 1935; B. E. Hupman, Ass't., November 13, 1944; J. R. McLaughlin, Act., April 1, 1945; John C. Hoffman, October 1, 1946; Joseph B. Scott, June 3, 1964.

The Whitehall Times
June 2, 1988

Whitehall Chronicle in Mid 1800's
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The post office was first located in the Flatiron Building by the locks. In June, it was moved across Broad Street into the Dayton. This was its second location. Its third home was in the Arcade Building and its fourth in the present location.

The Whitehall Times
June 16, 1975

January 1875
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

One hundred years ago this month the Post Office Department finally arranged to have mail carried between Whitehall and Port Henry. Mail pouches were sent daily from Rutland by the 9:30 a.m. train via Whitehall, Ticonderoga and Crown Point, reaching Port Henry at 1:05.

The Whitehall Times
June 16, 1975

The Washington County News - 1871
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Post Office moved into the new town building at the junction of Broad and Canal Street.

The Whitehall Times
July 31, 1986

100 Years Ago in Whitehall – 1886
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In August two additional services were added to the Post Office Department. One was the special delivery mail system inaugurated at all post offices and to all classes of mail in a town of 4,000 population. A 10 cent stamp was attached to the regular stamps. The postmaster received eight cents and the government two cents. Carrier boys had to be hired.

Another specialty was a little sheet envelope issued as a single sheet. It was an un-ruled sheet 9 1/2 x 5 1/2 inches. There were gummed sides and flaps with perforated lines to serve as guides for folding. On the front was an ornamental design with the words United States Letter Sheet Envelope and a two cent stamp with a portrait of Gen. U. S. Grant printed in green ink. They were sold in pads of different numbers, singles, or sets of 100.

Orville A. Manville, a veteran pensioned because of service wounds received in battle was appointed post master at this time. George W. Ingalls was appointed deputy postmaster under him.

The Whitehall Times
September 4, 1986

Whitehall in 1886
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Special delivery from all points went into effect 1 October 1886. In city offices large corps of messenger boys was needed to deliver the special letters and postage promptly. A special delivery stamp was issued for quick delivery of any class of mail.

The Whitehall Times
July 1 1976

Post Masters 1771 - 1964
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



Phillip Skene

The first postmaster north of Albany was Philip Skene, appointed June 1, 1771, by Benjamin Franklin and John Foxcroft, Postmasters General of the North District of North America.

By this authority Skene could charge 20 per cent on the net proceeds of the Office of Deputy Postmaster.

An early Whitehall post office was in the old Flatiron block located at the north end of the village by the old locks. From there it was moved directly across Broad Street into the Bebo Building. In 1910 it was moved farther south on Main Street into Griswold Iron Front Building.

A new federal post office located on Broadway was dedicated Dec. 3, 1938, by James A. Farley, Postmaster General, recently deceased. Money orders were issued for the first time July 21, 1865. The first rural routes were traveled Sept. 1, 1913, but the local deliveries did not begin until Nov. 15, 1918. During the 186 years of its existence:

Melancthon Wheeler, June 1, 1790; Nathaniel Hall, Oct. 1, 1805; Gideon Taft, July 1, 1809; John Bliss, Oct. 1, 1815; Ezra Smith, Jan. 4, 1819; James G. Caldwell, June

27, 1829; William H. Kirtland, March 25, 1841; Atherton Hall, Oct. 12, 1844; W. G. Wolcott, April 17, 1849; Harvey W. Buell, May 4, 1854.

Atherton Hall, Aug. 17, 1858; Ruckard K. Winter, May 26, 1861; Olif Abel, Sept. 29, 1864; Tracy Cowan, June 3, 1865; Horatio N. Parke, Feb. 5, 1866; John F. Clarke, Jan. 30, 1879; O. A. Manville, Aug. 6, 1886; Andrew J. Taft, Jan. 9, 1891; Henry C. Hall, March 1, 1895; C. W. Harding, March 3, 1899.

W. G. C. Wood, Nov. 3, 1905; David E. Brett, Feb. 5, 1914; Henry Neddo, Jan. 22, 1923; W. T. Bums, Feb. 1, 1935; B. E. Hupman, Ass't., Nov. 13, 1944; J. R. Mclaughlin, Act., April 1, 1945; John C. Hoffman, Oct. 1, 1946; Joseph Scott, Oct. 1, 1964.

The Whitehall Times **November 10, 1983**

Postmasters in Whitehall **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Nathaniel Hall was the second postmaster appointed succeeding Melancton Wheeler, 1 October, 1803. Nathaniel was born in Connecticut in 1775 and came to Whitehall about 1800 when first mention of him was made in the town records. In the legend of the change of names from Skenesborough to Whitehall in 1786, he was supposed to be the source of the name Hall. He would have been about eleven years old at the time of the changes and not yet living in the town. In 1808 as town clerk, he began writing the name as one word, Whitehall instead of White Hall.

A college man, an able lawyer and accomplished scholar, he soon became interested in the community after his arrival here. He served as town clerk from about 1808 to 1821 and from 1823 to 1825, the longest term of any town clerk for some decades.

Often in the early days of the town, men held two or more offices at the same time. Nathaniel was a justice of the peace from 1813 to 1814, president of the village from 1824 to 1825, a school commissioner in 1820. At this time, three men seemed to be leaders in the community affairs— Nathaniel Hall, Melancton Wheeler, Solomon Vine. Nathaniel was one of the committee to draw up in 1807 the resolution to the State Legislature regarding foreigners being held in town and that the part of Whitehall claimed by Hampton should remain a part of this town. He held most of the political offices, except that of supervisor. At the time of his death in 1825 he was president of the village, excise commissioner, "school commissioner, town clerk, justice of the peace and associate county judge. Nathaniel lived on a one and half acre lot between the Reservoir and Boardman cemetery. He was described as "a large, commanding, and handsome man, serious in manner, convincing in speech." Generally addressed as "Judge," he was egotistical, pompous, and dignified. His eldest son, Nathaniel, Jr., was a school commissioner. He was a doctor and left town with a large family in 1830.

Nathaniel was buried in Williams Street Cemetery with the inscription "In Memory of Nathaniel Hall, Esq. who departed this life Oct. 31, 1825 in the 50th year of his life."

The Whitehall Times
November 17, 1983

Gideon Taft Postmasters
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Gideon Taft, the third postmaster of Whitehall, was another outstanding leader in the early days of the town. He was born in Brookfield, Massachusetts in 1764, removed to Fair Haven in 1788, and to Whitehall in 1790. He relates there, but with eight houses in the village at the time, the business center was more in the East Bay area than in Skenesborough. There were 151 families in the town at the time.

Gideon was a merchant with a business on the Bar where the boat garage stands. Taft & Company owned two stores on the Bar. In 1800, Gideon paid two pounds for a license to sell spirituous liquors in his store. In 1826, while he was serving a term as Town Clerk he moved that office with the town records to his store.

Gideon was a surveyor and he laid out many of the roads in the early 1800's. One was the road from the Bar past his two lots and on to George Ackley's lot (Grand Union site) which ran along Church Street, part of present Broadway. Another was the road around the Mountain; other structures were the two slips near Bellamy Street. As a surveyor, he was for many years the Commissioner of Deeds and filed deeds which were brought to him. According to C. E. Holden, this was the probable cause of a span of 50 years in which there are no recorded deeds in county records. Mr. Taft entered political life soon after he appeared in Whitehall. He became one of the political triumvirates of Melancton Wheeler, Daniel Earle, and Gideon Taft. He became a school commissioner in 1798 and was elected Town Clerk the same year. He held this office off and on until 1840: 1798 - 1802; 1804 - 1807; 1826 - 1830; 1832; 1836 - 1840. In 1807 he was a member of the committee in the Hampton controversy. In 1808 he was a member of the New York State Assembly. He was appointed Justice of the Peace by the Governor in 1814 and thus was called Squire Taft. In 1812 he became a lieutenant in the Skenesborough Militia. Just before the War of 1812 Daniel Earle constructed the fort on the Island. After the war Gideon Taft lived in a tenant house on this land, which may account for its being called Taft's Island.

While in Fair Haven, Taft was involved in offices of the Masonic Order. In 1806 he assisted in organizing the Social Hall Lodge No. 145, instituted on 6 December in Whitehall. This order lasted until 1836 when it gave up its charter.

Gideon was a "short man, quick of mind, energetic of action, forthright in speech." He died 18 September 1848. There is a marker with this name and date in Boardman Cemetery.

The Whitehall Times
November 24, 1983

Postmasters in Whitehall
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Addenda on Gideon Taft: Daniel Earle built Fort Comfort on the Island in 1799. Gideon Taft lived in the building and had charge of the blockhouse before the War of 1812 this is another reason for the name of Taft's Island.

Information of some of the Whitehall postmasters from the sources I have is fairly scarce.

John Bliss, the fourth appointee, was not a native Whitehaller: He was born in Lebanon, Vermont, in September 1785 the son of Ebenezer and Joan Bliss. He was graduated from West Point Military Academy in 1811. Entering the army as an ensign, he rose to the rank of captain. He held that rank when the army was disbanded after the peace in 1815. He married Olive Hall Simonds of Lebanon on 10 November 1814.

John evidently was stationed in, Whitehall during the War of 1812 for here his famous son, William Smith Bliss of Fort Bliss fame, was born .3 August 1815. He must have lived in the village for some time, for he held the office of postmaster from 1 October 1815 - 4 January 1819. He died in Mobile Point, Alabama, 6 December 1822 of yellow fever, his son met the same fate in 1853 New Orleans.

Ezra Smith succeeded John Bliss as the fifth postmaster. Although he was a successful businessman sources do not have much about him. In 1817 he ran a store and had a stone warehouse on the site of the Commercial House, north of High Street, three large advertisements in the Emporium of 18 December 1823 listed some of his wares — all kinds wines, liquors, hanging paper, hardware, and a stock of Bibles, He had a line of canal boats and all kinds of forwarding and, storage. His advertisement was unusual for the times, as it contained visual attractions. There was a canal boat drawn by a galloping horse with a boy on horseback. The tow rope was exceedingly short. The high cabin had five windows and a man stood at the stern steering. Ezra was known as "Captain" Ezra Smith.

Ezra is not much in evidence in political affairs. He was a member of the assembly in 1819, postmaster from 4 January 1819 to 17 June 1829, and assessor in 1827. He married Caroline M. Smith.

James C. Caldwell, the sixth postmaster, 27 June 1829 to 25 March 1841, held the office the longest of any appointee to that time. Information about him is elusive; James was a business man, for in 1829 he paid five dollars for a license to sell spirituous liquors in his store. In 1829 he was an overseer of the poor and was chosen again in 1831. In 1833 he served as town clerk and as a commissioner of public schools. In 1845 he became one of the trustees of the village. He died 25 August 1864 at 71 years of age and his wife Eliza, on 16 January 1879 at 80 years. Both were buried in Williams Street Cemetery. She was a sister of M. O. Blinn.

The Whitehall Times
December 1, 1983

Postmasters in Whitehall
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

William H. Kirtland, the seventh postmaster, held the office from 25 March 1841 to 30 November. Resources give little light on his activities, not even his burial place. On a visit to Plattsburgh 11 February 1843 he died suddenly. A note said he was described as a worthy and esteemed citizen. Of interest is the fact that Kirtland Street was named for Mrs. J. Pliny Adams, the daughter of John Kirtland.

Dr. Atherton Hall occupied the eighth slot for postmaster. He took office 30 November 1844, rather than 12 October. He was written about in an account in this column recently.

Dr. W.G. Wolcott succeeded Dr. Hall on April 17, 1849. Perhaps because he was a doctor, he did not enter into political office other than being postmaster ending 4 May 1853. He had rooms in Centre Street in 1847. After an illness he moved to rooms on Williams Street where he was willing to settle accounts with patrons. He was a secretary of the Whitehall Academy on Williams Street in the early 1860's.

When the 1861 appointment for postmaster was imminent, he placed an advertisement in the Chronicle in February. It read: "I will not be a candidate for postmaster of any individual or clique but will run if Republicans nominate me" In the 26 April issue 1861 of the Chronicle he had this open letter:

To the Republicans of Whitehall:

A patriotism that costs no sacrifice is a cheap commodity. You have four candidates for the Postmaster. I am not one of that number. I cannot in the discharge of my duty go to the battle field, but am willing to give proof of my love of country.

The appointment of Postmaster hangs fire" on account of the multiplicity of candidates. I will accept the place and will contribute the entire net proceeds thereof during the existence of the war to be expended under the direction of the Finance Committee of the late Union Meeting, for the benefit of families of those who volunteer, and at its close surrender the office to whomever you shall designate as my successor.

His patriotic offer was not accepted."

Harvey W. Buell followed Wolcott as the tenth postmaster 4 May 1853. He was born in Castleton, Vermont, half-brother of Julio T. Buell, the "bait maker." He had a store on Canal Street but for years was connected with his brother in manufacture of trolling spoons and spinning bait. He held several patents himself. On 10 September 1847 he married Esther Chapman. There were four daughters.

Harvey had a fondness for antique coins. Among the ones in his collection were a British penny of 1738, North American ones of 1781, and United States half cents.

Something odd must have occurred for the appointment of postmaster in 1858 was announced in the Lion of 22 July 1858, a Whitehall newspaper of short duration:

"It is so. Harvey W. Buel, Esc has the appointment a postmaster in this place." But on the list of postmasters Atherton Hall is named for 17 August 1858 as the eleventh office holder of that place.

The Whitehall Times
December 8, 1983

Postmasters in Whitehall
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Richard H. Winters held the office for the 12th term in the list of Whitehall's postmasters. He was not the 12th individual, as Atherton Hall had two terms beginning in 1844 and in 1858. R. H. Winters succeeded Atherton Hall in his second appointment.

Mr. Winter's term was from 26 May 1861 to 29 September 1864. W. G. Wolcott's patriotic offer for the post was not accepted. Two weeks after his appointment R. H. moved the post office from the Dayton Block, which was on the site of the Commercial Hotel on Broad Street, to his mercantile establishment at No. 2 Myers' Block, the block at the corner of Canal Street (Main Street) and Broad Street. The notice of the removal said "It is now located much more conveniently for the accommodation of the public generally."

From advertisements it is learned that Mr. Winters had a tailoring "Establishment" and "People's Ready Made Clothing Store." He boasted of his stock "not to be surpassed by any stock in the country. He had an experienced cutter and practical tailor. The garments made were guaranteed to be in the height of Fashion if wanted durable and sure to fit. He kept a good supply of clothes and ready-made shirts, cravats, etc. for men, and had a ladies department of boots and shoes. He added umbrellas, trunks, valises and traveling bags to his store. All these were for "CASH."

Over his store were three to four light and airy offices for rent.

The thirteenth term of postmaster was held by Olif Abel, 29 September 1864. As yet I have found no references to this man. There were Abels in the town that associated with the Nyes, who had a foundry on Williams Street. Hopefully more information will be forthcoming.

The Whitehall Times
December 13, 1983

Postmasters in Whitehall
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Information about Tracy Cowan, fourteenth on the list of postmasters, is scarce. He held the appointment for less than one year, 3 June 1865 to 5 February 1866. He was a superintendent in the Presbyterian Church. Tracy died in Shushan in October 1869. Horatio Nelson Parke followed Mr. Cowen as the fifteenth name of the postmaster list. He was the son of John Parke, founder of the Parke family in Whitehall, who owned the Parke House, formerly the Whitehall House, which burned 28 August 1835. The cause was a candle that had been stuck on a door case in the hall. A larger Parke House was

built on the site, which later became known as the Anglo Saxon House, the Knights House, and then the Hall House, which burned 16 March 1876.

This account may have been about Horatio or William H. Parke. When a lad of twelve, he carried the mail on the route between Whitehall and Vergennes, he made the round trip of 71 miles in two days. The service between the two places was weekly.

Horatio held several public offices. He was associated with Nathaniel Hall as school commissioner, Justice of the Peace, and Excise Commissioner. He was Sealer of Weights and Measures in 1831 and 1832, Town Clerk from 1850 to 1854. He was Postmaster from 5 February 1866 until 1879. In 1830, the Torrent Fire Engine Company was organized, which had an engine previous to the Torrent, now in Skenesborough Museum. Horatio belonged to this organization and became first lieutenant in 1835 and captain 1837. When the Whitehall Encampment was instituted 29 April 1872, he was one of its first officers.

Horatio was buried in the Boardman Cemetery. His stone gives the death date as 5 March 1886 at 75 years and that of his wife Esther Bullock as 11 May 1896 at 84 years.

The Whitehall Times January 5, 1984

Postmasters in Whitehall Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

John F. Clarke followed Horatio N. Parke as Postmaster from 30 January 1879 to 6 August 1886, although he is listed a Deputy Postmaster in the Whitehall directory of 1892-1893. According to the Boardman Cemetery stones he was born 3 July 1831 and died 14 August 1922. Unfortunately the only newspaper on file for this year has had its obituary notices clipped from it. (This points out how important one issue of a newspaper can be. The Whitehall Research Library will gladly accept just one issue of an old paper. A donation does not have to be a whole run of a volume). His wife Deborah (maiden name not given) died 23 May 1906 aged 84. No newspaper of this day or year is available.

In 1862 John F. Clarke served as Justice of the Peace. He is not listed in the Civil War soldiers from Whitehall. I believe him to be one of the locally prominent vocalists. He was active in the Presbyterian Church at the time when both instrumental and vocal music performances were outstanding.

Orville A. Manville followed John F. Clarke as postmaster 6 August 1886 to 9 January 1890. His is the seventh name on the postmaster list. He was one of Taylor Manville's ten children and a member of the Manville families of Whitehall. His family included the outstanding teacher Alena Viola Manville.

Orville was a druggist on Canal (Main) Street. He was born 28 June 1844 and married Dollie D. B. Spooner in 1876. Both were buried in Greenmount Cemetery on dates 1922 and 1926. Again the newspaper, containing his obituary was clipped. Orville served in the Civil War, enlistings.

August 1862 in the 123rd New York Regiment, Company C that contained most of Whitehall's soldier of that war. In 1876 he became Second Lieutenant of the Burleigh Corps, the Ninth Company which was organized 27 April 1876.

The Whitehall Times January 12, 1984

Postmasters in Whitehall Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Andrew J. Taft was postmaster 9 January 1891 to 1 March 1895. His dates, according to the Boardman Cemetery records, were 1839 to 1909 and those of his wife Sarah Wilson, 1858 to 1938. The directory of 1892-1893 places his home at 21 Queen Street, in one of the "cottage" type houses on that street. He was the father of Nina Taft, the Whitehall School Clerk who spent so many years in that office and was known to generations of school children. He might have been the soldier named Andrew Taft in the 123d New York Regiment, Company C. Again newspapers are not available for his obituary.

The same is true of the next postmaster, only less information is available at present. Henry C. Hall served as postmaster 1 March 1895 to 3 March 1899. He lived on School Street and was a horseman. He could have served in the Civil War. The Boardman Cemetery stones state his years as 1832 to 1908; his wife's Celia Sherman, were 1833 to 1907.

After these two postmasters came Charles W. Harding who was appointed 3 March 1899 and served until 3 March 1905. Charles was born in Sandy Creek, Oswego County. After his graduation from the commercial department in Eastman College, Poughkeepsie, he came to Whitehall in 1872.

There Charles developed a life full of energetic and varied occupations and activities that characterized so many of Whitehall's early citizens. Mr. Harding began as a bookkeeper for H. R. Wait of the clothing and carpet business. After the store, on the site of Barber's Clothing Store, burned in 1884, he formed a partnership with B. H. Bascom and conducted the clothing business on Broad Street in the Davis Building, later occupied by John Sullivan. Two years later the partners moved into their new building erected on the site of the former Wait Building. For thirty years Mr. Harding ran a successful business at this spot.

Charles was interested in the advancement of Whitehall. He was a director of the Lake Champlain Transportation Company, the Adirondack Mining and Milling Company, and the Whitehall and Granville Electric Railway Company. He was a charter member of the Whitehall Board of Trade and became its president. He was a member of the Board of Education. He held membership in the Masonic Phoenix Lodge and No. 5 Lodge I.O.O.F. He was a trustee of the Presbyterian Church for several years.

Mr. Harding died less than a month after his term as postmaster expired. Offices, stores, and schools were closed the afternoon of his funeral. He was buried in Salem.

In December 1878 Charles married Katherine Boyd. They had a daughter, Elizabeth B. Harding Carpenter. She served the town and village as Town Historian and President of the Library Board.

The Whitehall Times
January 19, 1984

Postmasters in Whitehall
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

As soon as the paper on Andrew Taft was delivered, an account of his appointment was found in another scrapbook. Account books are being indexed by the volunteers in the Research Library.

It seems the Office of Postmaster used to be a political appointment. The time arrived when there were two candidates, Mr. Clark and Mr. Taft, but since no veteran had ever held the office public sentiment favored such a move. Accordingly a petition was signed by 72 veterans and sent to Mr. Quakenbush who had the final decision and immediately made the popular choice.

Andrew J. Taft was a member of Co. C of the 123rd Regiment in Col. Tanner's Company, after whom a Post of Whitehall was named. Company C was the Whitehall regiment in the Civil War. Andrew went through the war as a private, refusing all offers of promotion, and returned to Whitehall with his company. He succeeded O. A. Manville as Postmaster and appointed his rival, J. F. Clark, as Assistant Deputy and secured as his assistant his nephew, Gus Taft.

The same source of information warned the incumbent that he would have to be alert and active in order to give service as well as his predecessor, O. A. Manville, who had handled the mail carefully and expeditiously and attended to the wants of the people with courtesy and dispatch. He had left an endowment to the new management of a high standard of efficiency. O. A. Manville was a corporal in the Civil War. He was wounded at Chancellerville, detached to invalid corps, promoted to Hospital Steward, and honorably discharged at the end of the war.

Willis G. C. Wood was the 21st postmaster's name on the list. He held the office for eight years, 13 November 1905 to 5 February 1914.

Although brought up on a farm, Willis was a prominent and successful business man in the village. His first work was as a clerk in the hardware store of George Hall and of his later partner, Hall and Kittredge. When this business failed in 1878 Willis and Frank A. Hotchkiss purchased the stock and went into the business under the name of Wood and Hotchkiss. This store was at the corner of Saunders and Canal (Main) Street.

Businesses in earlier years tended to move quite often. Thus these partners had three locations. The second one was a short ways up the street on the site of the old Grand Union, and a few years later on the south corner of Division and Canal (Main) street. The building burned in 1898, but by 1900, a new store had been erected. It was a very modern building for its time and its three stories were given a detailed description in the newspaper. On Mr. Hotchkiss, retirement the business was called the Wood Hardware

Company. This business was purchased in 1903 by James Doren's Sons. The building is still standing.

About 1870 Mr. Wood was President of the Village. He was a Village Trustee when the old system was installed about 1883. He was a charter member of the Burleigh Corps, a Justice of the Peace four times, and a Police Magistrate for several years. He was a member of Masonic Lodges and a past Noble Grand of I.O.O.F.

The stones in Greenmount Cemetery read Willis G. C. Wood, 1850 to 1929 (30 January - 24 December) and Josephine Gilbert Wood 1854 - 1919. They were married 1 September 1880. There were two daughters, Mrs. John J. Dorenand and Mrs. M. F. Daniel. His two brothers were Charles and Isaac Wood.

The Whitehall Times

January 26, 1984

Postmasters in Whitehall

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A beneficial practice for researchers, and themselves, would be for compilers of newspaper articles or collectors of pictures to identify the articles; for newspapers the name of the paper, the date, including the day of publication and for pictures identification of people and the subject. Relatives of the subject would considerate it a great help also.

A flashback in order of time in the list of postmasters on John F. Clark is from two sources, an obituary and a paper written by him for the newly organized Historical Society of Whitehall in 1911.

The paper dealt with the music of Whitehall of more than a century ago. It also gives some genealogical material. In 1812 his parents, William and Lucinda Clark came from Pawlet, Vermont, in an ox cart with a few pots and kettles. They settled on a poor, clay farm in North Whitehall. It was near the farm of Charles White who lived north of Hackadam on the other side of East Bay and below Carvers Falls. (Recently I received an inquiry for the location of Hackadam!) The parents shortly after moved down to Sciota and amid sand and stumps erected a log house where most of his children were born.

John F. Clark was born 3 July 1831 and died 17 July 1922. He was buried in Boardman Cemetery. He came to Whitehall after living on the farm and he held the offices of Police Magistrate and Civil Magistrate and four years as Postmaster and four as deputy under Andrew Taft. He was a veteran of the Civil War. John had a sweet voice and was a member of the famed quartet of the Presbyterian choir. He sang all his life, and at the time of his death at 91 years he had, an engagement to sing over the G. E. Broadcasting Station. The article he wrote in 1911 told that singing schools were introduced in North Whitehall in 1837. The singing master was looted upon as a man of wonder genius, especially if he could read the old fashioned buckwheat notes. Seth Thomas was the first teacher of note in North Whitehall. Those singers thought it would be great if an orchestra could be formed from the many players of instruments.

Accordingly they were summoned together and to organize under a Professor Wood from Boston who was teaming in either the higher learning centers of Castleton or Poultney. After the group had sufficiently tuned their instruments in order to play together, Professor Wood placed before each a sheet of music and instructed them to begin at a certain note. Among other comments the most current was "But before we play we'd like to know what them things are for that are strung up and down on them lines." After what he thought was an explanation, the professor felt every hair on his head rise in anguished astonishment. The next morning the weary musicians made their way home where they might play their instruments in their own way, and that was the end of the orchestra.

Another entertainment of the young people at that time was the dance. The cut jig was popular. A dancer, of either sex, would begin to show his skill; then one of the opposite sex would slide in to relieve the exhausted dancer. This would go on until nearly all had tried their skill. This was an opportunity to show the art of the company. A few who were outstanding were Michael Juckett, Asa Brewster, and blacksmith Peter. The star performer of that part of town was Clarissa Beckwith who could execute all the steps of her male competitors except the pigeon wing. But, Mr. Clark claimed, for the good old fashioned break down where each could take kitchen steps at one time, Whitehall had to take a back seat to Dresden Barretts, Bartholomews, Sleights, and Beebes, being a race of natural dancers.

The Whitehall Times February 2, 1984

Postmasters in Whitehall Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

After Postmaster Hall came Charles W. Harding, who was appointed 3 March 1899 and served until 3 November 1905. Charles was born in Sandy Creek, Oswego County. After his graduation in the commercial department in Eastman College, Poughkeepsie, he came to Whitehall in 1782.

There he developed a life full of energetic and varied occupations and avocations that characterized many of Whitehall's early citizens. Mister Harding began as a bookkeeper for H. R. Wait of the carpet and clothing business. After this store, on the site of Barber's Clothing, burned in 1844, he formed a partnership with B. H. Bascom and conducted a clothing business on Broad Street (North Main) in the Davis Building later occupied by John Sullivan. Two years later, the partners moved into their new building on the site of the former Wait building. For 30 years, Mr. Harding ran a successful business.

Charles W. Harding was interested in the advancement of the town of Whitehall. He was a director of the Lake Champlain Transportation Co., the Adirondack Mining and Milling Co., and the Whitehall-Granville Electric Railway Co. He was a charter member of the Whitehall Board of Trade and became its president. He was a member of the board of education. He held membership in the Mason Phoenix Lodge and #5 Lodge of IOOF. He was a trustee of the Presbyterian Church for several years.

In Dec. 1878, he and Katherine Boyd were married. They had one child, Elizabeth D. Harding Carpenter. She served the town and village as town historian and president of the library board.

Mr. Harding died less than a month after his term as postmaster expired. Offices, stores and schools were closed the afternoon of the funeral service. Internment was in Salem.

W. G. C. Wood was the 21st postmaster's name on the list. He held the office for eight years, 13 November 1905 to 5 February 1914.

Although brought up on a farm, Willis was a prominent and successful business man of the village. His first work was as a clerk in the hardware store of George Paul and of his later partner, Paul N. Kittridge. When the business failed in 1878, Willis and Frank A. Hotchkiss purchased the stock and went under the firm name of Wood & Hotchkiss. This store was at the corner of Saunders and Main streets.

Businesses in earlier years tended to move quite often. The two partners had three places of business. The second location was on the site of the Grand Union store and, a few years after, on the south corner of Main and Division streets. This building burned in 1898, but within two years a new house was erected. It was a very modern building for its time, and its three floors were given a detailed newspaper description. On Mr. Hotchkiss' retirement, the business was called the Wood Hardware Co., which was purchased in 1903 by James Doren's sons.

About 1870, Mr. Wood was President of the Village. He was a Village Trustee when the old water system was installed about 1833. He was a charter member of the Burleigh Corps, a justice of the peace four times, and a police magistrate for several years. He was a member of Masonic Lodge and Past Noble Grand of IOOF. The stones in Greenmount Cemetery read: "Willis G.C Wood, 1850-1929, and Josephine Gilbert Wood, 1854-1919." They were married 1 September 1880. There were two daughters, Mrs. John J. Doren and Mrs. M. F Daniel. His two brothers were Charles P. and Isaac Wood.

The Whitehall Times

February 9, 1984

Postmasters in Whitehall

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

David E. Brett followed Willis C. Wood as Postmaster 5 February 1914. He held the office for, nine years through appointments of President Woodrow Wilson. During his term, city mail was inaugurated 15 November 1918.

Mr. Brett was born in Whitehall 16 February 1875, the son of George and Mary Erwin Brett and belonged to the John Brett family, who built the present American Legion building as a grocery and feed store. His brothers were business men of the village, George, Fred, and Robert, and his sisters were Mame and Effie, the later of whom was a local painter of note. David himself was an insurance man and a member of Phoenix Lodge R & A M. His wife was Margaret Drake Turner, a descendent of the

famous ancestor Francis Drake. Mr. Brett died 15 November 1918 and was buried in Boardman Cemetery. ,

During the 1890's Whitehall was a one night stand of stock companies going from New York to Montreal. They played in the Opera House on Williams Street until it burned and then in the Ives Opera House in Ticonderoga. In this decade Whitehalls were involved in delivering musical productions. Three of these were Gilbert and Sullivan selections: Mikado in 1893, Patience in 1894, Pirates of Penzance in 1895. He worked closely with other musicians of the time, participant and director Lawrence Tefft and co-worker Herman Sullivan.

Preceding each production, the local players practiced two or three times weekly for three months in the first Y.M.C.A. social center at Cooke Street, in Mahan Hose Company rooms in the old flatiron building, in rooms of the Episcopal Church, and in the Gray's Hall. The three dramas were given in the Music Hall upstairs over the present insurance company and in the Griswold Building. After three performances in Whitehall they were taken to Mechanicville, Fair Haven, and Ives Opera House in Ticonderoga.

Henry Neddo followed David E. Brett, serving twelve years. He was chosen from a field of six candidates and during his term in office was appointed by three presidents, Warren Harding, Calvin Coolidge, and Herbert Hoover.

Henry was born 12 May 1881, one of ten children of George and Delia Archambault Neddo. He followed the life of his father, who owned the Neddo Boatyard (formerly O'Reilly Boatyard) at the Elbow, and who was a leader in local political affairs. Henry built his first canal boat at age twelve while he was still in school. At eighteen years of age he was an insurance adjuster like his father. He took over his father's interests when canal traffic ceased for about eight years while the barge canal was constructed in Whitehall.

In 1904 he married Mary Barrett, whose father was owner of a general store. In 1908 Henry sold the shipbuilding business and became proprietor of a grocery and feed store, which he ran for 45 years. He sold the business to Edward Chase. The store can be likened to the Julio T. Buel's fishing tackle store as a center of men's social and political hangout.

Again like his father, Henry entered political life, going on from local affairs to national ones. Locally he served as Town Clerk, Postmaster, Superintendent of the Canal for three years, and Harbor Master of Whitehall. He was twenty years president of the Merchants National Bank (Key Bank). He was a member of the Board of Education, being its president for twenty years. State wide from 1898 on he was a delegate to Republican State conventions, nine-year member of New York State Assembly, and had three terms in the New York State Senate. In both of these he served on many committees, especially education, canals, and ways and means.

Henry's daughter Mary was a Whitehall school teacher for many years and his son Francis, a trial lawyer. Henry was buried in the Neddo Cemetery at the Elbow.

The Whitehall Times
February 9, 1984

Postmasters in Whitehall
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

William T. Burns became Whitehall postmaster 1 February 1935, the first Democrat to hold office in thirteen years. Mr. Burns was born in Stillwater, son of William H. and Mary Forum Burns. He was educated in the Stillwater schools and came to Whitehall in 1915 as assistant supervisor of the Prudential Insurance Company, a business in which his son William and now grandson Ronald succeeded him. He conducted his business from the small building next to the Town Building, which, since its construction in 1890, had always served as a small notion and newsroom store.

Mr. Burns was an ardent Democrat. He was active in the local party, acting as a committee man and a candidate for public office. He was appointed postmaster and held that position until his death 12 November 1944, a period of nine years. During his term of office, the present post office was constructed. He was custodian of that site at the corner of Chapin Alley and present Broadway until the federal engineer arrived and supervised the change from Whitehall's third post office.

Mr. Burns held a keen interest in Whitehall affairs. He served as president of the Chamber of Commerce two years and almost single-handedly convinced the manager of the Putnam Manufacturing Company to locate in Whitehall, and led the drive to raise funds for it. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, B.P.O.E. 1491, and the Rosary Society of Our Lady of Angels.

Mrs. Burns was Georgia Millett Wallace. The couple had a son, William, a stepson, John Wallace, and three daughters. Burial for both was in the Boardman Cemetery.

When Mr. Burns died in office 12 November 1944; R. Byron Hupman, a member of the post office force, was appointed assistant postmaster 23 November 1944. The naming of the next postmaster was expected after the next civil service examination. This occurred 1 April 1945. Several persons were mentioned for the position. Mr. Hupman was a member of the post office force for 43 years, retiring in October 1957.

Mr. Hupman was an original member of the New York State Police when it was a mounted organization. He was honored by the Association of Former State Troopers, from which he resigned to serve in World War I. He was a member of both the National and State Guard, commanding companies in both organizations. On 30 September 1931 the President of the United States appointed him First Lieutenant of Infantry in the army of the United States, taking effect 6 June 1931. On 9 May 1931, Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Byron's appointment as First Lieutenant, infantry, in New York National Guard, taking effect 7 May 1931; on 5 August 1940. Governor Herbert Lehman signed his appointment as Captain, Infantry on the Reserve List from, Inactive, and on 2 December 1940 a Captain, Infantry, from 27 November 1940.

Mr. Hupman was a member of the Mother Church, Christian Science, and was a reader in Great Meadow Prison and Correctional Institution for several years. He served on the Whitehall Board of Education. He married Irene Hyatt. The couple had two

daughters, Mrs. Donald C. Burnett and Mrs. Thomas Degroff, and two sons, Charles and Byron Jr., who served in World War II.

The Whitehall Times
February 23, 1984

Postmasters in Whitehall
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

John R. McLaughlin succeeded B. E. Hupman, Assistant Postmaster, as Acting Postmaster 1 April 1945 to serve until a permanent postmaster was appointed after a Civil Service examination. He ran a grocery store in the American Legion Building for some years. His parents were Archie and Catherine Sinnott. She was the daughter of the longtime grocer William Sinnott.

Mr. McLaughlin was associated at various times with the National Bank of Whitehall, the Champlain Silk Mills, and as bookkeeper for the Whitehall Lumber Company and Stevens Garage. At the time of his death, 27 May 1962, he had served as secretary and treasurer of the Whitehall Savings and Loan for 36 years.

Before World I he was an officer of Co. S, Second Regiment New York National Guard and was with them at the Mexican border. He was a past Grand Knight of Knights of Columbus 276, a 24th degree member, and served as a district deputy.

Mr. McLaughlin married Teresa Maloney. Mary McLaughlin was their daughter. Edward McLaughlin, mayor of Whitehall, was his brother, whose children were Nora and Roger. John's life spanned 25 March 1884 to 19 August 1962. He was buried in the West Granville Cemetery.

John C. Hoffman succeeded acting John R. McLaughlin as postmaster 1 October 1946 and served seventeen years, retiring in 1964.

Mr. Hoffman operated a grocery store for 23 years, located at 114 Main Street north of the corner drug store at 8 Saunders Street. He was active in community affairs. He was a member of the Board of Education from 1937 to 1958, serving as its president the last ten years of his tenure. As its chairman, he was on the local playground commission for many years. He served in World War I and later was a member of American Legion post 83, Washington County Voiture 1224, and Skenesborough Barracks 2885 Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was a member of 40 & 8.

The Whitehall Times
March 1, 1984

Postmasters in Whitehall
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Joseph A. Scott followed John (Curley) Hoffman as Postmaster. He was appointed to the office 30 June 1964 and served until 30 June 1983, a period of nineteen years.

Joseph has been active in the affairs of Whitehall in several capacities. He was a business man, purchasing the Canali Grocery Store, which was located on the site of the Troy Savings Bank, in 1937. He interrupted civilian life for the United States Army. He entered service 2 December 1943 and was discharged 11 February 1946. While in service he was Post Exchange Manager in Fort Getty and in Fort Adams, Rhode Island.

In 1947 Joseph entered political life and was elected for three terms as a Trustee of the village of Whitehall. He purchased the A. B. Case Grocery Store at the corner of First Avenue and Broadway and erected the Scott Dairy-Bar on the site of the Edmonds Funeral Parlor at the corner of Adams Street and Broadway. These he sold in 1950 to his brothers Gino and Emilio Scott.

Joseph was born to parents Anthony and Catherine (Tasciotti) Scott, 13 November 1916, one of a family of five boys and four girls: Madeline, Irene, Julia, Elvira, Gino, Anthony, Emilio, Edward, Joseph. The nine were all graduates of Whitehall High School, a record among families.

Joseph is active in community affairs. He is a member of Knights of Columbus 276 and of the American Legion Post 86. He is a long term director of the Chamber of Commerce and the chairman of its Bingo Committee. He has attended over one hundred parades with the Chamber's naval float, Schooner LIBERTY.

Herman Gordon, the present postmaster, was sworn into office 21 October 1983, the first nonpolitical appointment in the line of postmasters. He had served an apprenticeship besides having the other qualifications of the office. He has an able corps of postal workers with him: supervisor Kenneth McKee; carriers James Huntington and Christopher Ross; auxiliary carriers Gerry Cutting and Linda Bleibtrey; rural carriers David Sawyer and Vincent Epifanio; clerks Wyman Whiting and Henry Gurney; sub-rural carriers Steven Lipka and Donald McKee and custodian Donald Pratt.

The Whitehall Times
April 19, 1984

Postmasters in Whitehall
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

It is always good to receive comments on the columns written for the newspapers additional material and fact. I would there were more comments, for all help to make a factual account of Whitehall history.

The following is additional information for the postmaster accounts. Joyce Hoffman married? Austim Creedon, who was an officer in the National Guard. Another son of Byron Hupman, is George Hupman, who is with General Electric; Joseph Scott's wife Dorothy Miller/Scott and their children, Helen Hoey of Bremerton, Washington; Patricia Scott of Whitehall, Anne Scott of New York City, and Robert of the U. S. Navy, were omitted from the write up. At the time of the dedication of the post office in 1938, Edward T. McCarthy was Assistant Postmaster.

A program of the Dedication Ceremonies of the present United States Post Office building came to light. It was an eight-page leaflet with a picture of the building. The program occupied a space on pages 2 and 6. The back sheet listed the personnel of the United States Post Office and that of Whitehall Post Office. The rest of the space was filled with 62 advertisements, an index of the businesses and organizations of that time.

Railroads

The Whitehall Independent
August 29, 1984

Paint on Early Railroad Cars
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Would you believe the colors painter Peter LaLiberte put on early locomotives and coaches in his small wooden shop at Green Island? He had learned his trade as a carriage maker and painter in Quebec and as a house painter in Whitehall.

Coal and freight cars were painted outside the shop but locomotives were decorated in the machine shop and round house. The coaches were finished in chrome yellow, a corn color, and were well varnished. The lettering was in gold leaf, outlined in gold and black. The inside was finished in natural wood. Other cars were done in yellow but not as bright a hue as in the coaches.

The locomotives became a work of art. The sand dome and steam dome were finished in maroon, the sides of the sand dome being scrolled on gold to include the numbers. The stack, a large wooden design, was painted black. The sides of the

headlight, a square bulky casing holding an oil lamp, were decorated with landscape sketching, outlined in gold stripes and scrolls. The jacket was of Russian iron held in place by bands of brass, while the cabs, made of ash, were done in the natural wood paneled with gold and bearing the names of the stockholders and high ranking officials of the company.

The frame of the locomotive was green and the wheels and pilot were done in vermillion. The rods and guides were highly polished steel and most of the pipes were of brass and were always kept bright. The tanks were finished in maroon and grained to appear as wood. They were profusely paneled and scrolled in gold; the lettering was in script.

The paint was of a quality and lasted a year. It is no wonder the crew took great pride in the appearance of their locomotives. It was the fireman's duty to see they were spotlessly cleaned and polished.

At the time of Mr. LaLiberte's service there were thirty locomotives and thirty-two coaches on the Rensselaer and Saratoga besides the coal and freight cars. A team of horses was used for transporting supplies and shunting the cars in and out of the shops and making up a train. When the grates were installed in the wood burners, the wooden stack gave way to one of cast iron.

At this time also many of the stations, especially the brick ones, were whitewashed, one of them being that at Saratoga. The inside of the water compartment was painted to protect it from rust. The metal was first cleaned with gasoline. The fumes were a matter of danger.

The Whitehall Independent

May 6, 1987

The Railroad Station of Whitehall- 1848

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Saratoga and Whitehall railway reached Whitehall in 1848. By 1850, a passenger station was constructed about 200 feet west of the now demolished building and a freight house on its site.

In the same year, a 682 feet tunnel was dug between Saunders and Bellamy streets. The tracts were extended down what was Canal Street (now Broadway) as far as the second cut on Lake Champlain. The next year, 1851, Lake Station was built at this point to connect rail transportation and the lake steamers. In 1873, when the railroad was extended north, this station was taken to demons. In 1903, it was moved and in 1909 destroyed by fire.

In 1890, the freight house was owned by Darilee Industries. In 1982, the first freight house was moved east, remodeled and used as a stone house. A second passenger station was placed on the site of the first freight house. The tracks were on the west side of the station and went down the middle of Canal Street. For years Whitehall was noted as the place where the trains went through the Main Street until the condition was changed in 1933 when the tracks were realigned to the east. Pictures of these are in the

Delaware and Hudson Passenger and Freight Stations and copied in Day Before Yesterday.

The destruction of the railroad station aroused memories. Modes of transportation changed and the station that stood for 95 years is no more. Memories for some mean the trips to the station to mail letters in time to go out on the sleeper; the old truck that took mail from the post office downtown to the station; the baggage room presided over by baggage master George King; the rumble of the baggage truck as night clerk, Allen Shaw, rolled it to the train; the ticket office who telegrapher and clerk, Jimmy Neiles, Hiram Griffin, Jr., Larry Waters, and John Fagan or Ed Mann, dispersed tickets; Henry Bouce with the Express truck and all those who went at times just to watch the travelers.

Other people will have memories of earlier and later times but for a while the station will be remembered.

The Whitehall Times April 26, 1973

The Railroad - 1848 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The railroad came to Whitehall 10 December 1848 under the name of the Saratoga and Washington Railroad. Up to that time passengers made the nine hour trip from Troy to Whitehall by train to Saratoga and from there to Whitehall by stage coach. During the preceding decade plans for a railroad were made and dissolved by delays in choosing one of two proposed routes and a financial panic.

By 1850 a passenger station in Whitehall had been built opposite the present station about 200 feet west and a freight house where the present passenger stands. This year also the Rutland Railroad was completed. Whitehall's geographical location had again made the area important, as it continued to be an entry port having added rail traffic to its communication lines, east, north, and south. It is interesting to note that the first four locomotives for this line were named BENNINGTON, MONTREAL, TICONDEROGA, and NEW YORK. At first the railroad was allowed to carry only passengers and baggage, not freight, for it would be in competition with the canal boats which paid a toll to the State. This law was shortly amended by allowing the practice if the railroad paid the same toll to the state and was waived entirely in 1851 when all the railroads of the state were allowed to carry freight. This foretold the knell for the great canal traffic.

The largest percentage of the passengers arriving in Whitehall desired connection with the boats on Lake Champlain. The distance from the station to the south of the main village to the wharf below the Elbow was considerable and an annoyance. In 1851 a 682 foot tunnel was constructed through the center of the village under Church Street so that passengers could be conveyed directly to and from the boats. The tunnel was 53 feet at its deepest and cost \$100,000 and took the line to the Lake Station near the Elbow.

The WHITEHALLER of 18 October 1849 gave a schedule of trains for the United States Mail Line. There were two daily trains each way, except Sunday when

there was but one. One could go south at 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. and proceed directly to Troy. Coming north a passenger could leave Troy at 8:15 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. and Saratoga at 10:30 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. On Sundays the one train left Whitehall at 8:15 a.m. and Saratoga at 3:00 p.m.

Traffic Increased. In 1865 the Champlain Transportation Co. provided exclusive rights through Lake Champlain to Whitehall. In 1868 the Rensselaer and Saratoga Railroad secured stock control in the Champlain Transportation Co. Soon railroad lines began to push south from Plattsburgh. By 1870 Addison Junction (near Fort Ticonderoga) had been reached. Planners In 1872 interested the D. & H. Canal Co. in building north from Whitehall. In 1873 construction began.

The problems were many. The track had to go through the marshes at the head of the lake get across the mouth of South Bay, and conquer the marsh north of the bay. This was done by making a one and one-fourth mile trestle. The seemingly bottomless area was filled with canal boats, trees, timbers, old railroad ties, rock, earth, anything at all that would make a solid road bed. Once, the track at Dresden Station sank several feet. After that, the great rock cuts had to be negotiated and a tunnel made just south of Addison Junction to connect with the north track. In spite of all this the track was opened 30 November 1874.

Life in Whitehall was affected by this activity. Seemingly "hordes" of men came to work on the railroad. The WHITEHALL TIMES of 21 May 1873 reported that 100 men arrived that week that were on their way to work on the New York and Canada Railroad. Unable to get rooms they roamed around the streets all night or slept in barns. To the north in Clemons the Mellon homestead (Otis Benjamin, Valle Benjamin) became a rooming house for the men working on that section. The third floor was finished off to make a dormitory for them, an unusual procedure for upper floors at that time.

Other work and produce was beneficial besides the labor on the road. The WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWS carried advertisements for railroad ties of white oak or rock oak, chestnut, black cherry, or tamarack eight feet long. And of course there were meals and lodgings.

"Look Out for the Car's When the Bell Rings". This was the headline for the opening of the line north. On Monday 30 November 1874 a train bearing two passenger and one baggage coach drawn by locomotive J. M. WILLIAMS, L. B. Leland engineer left Whitehall with president of the Road L. V. Baker; H. M. Marcy, General Freight Agent of the D&H Canal Co.; H. B. Smith, General Superintendent; Hon. James Marvin, Saratoga; and W. S. Eddy of Whitehall.

The first regular train passed Tuesday 8 December 1874. Other men on this train were Chief Engineer Wentz and a TROY TIMES representative. The train left Troy 7:45 a.m. and arrived at Port Henry 1:05 p.m. returning at 2:00 and reaching Troy at 7:15. Chief Engineer Wentz had carried out the work of this construction, at a cost of \$1,800,000. The five miles south from Port Henry was done by contractors W. Doty & Co. of Washington County while Devin and Co. of Elmira finished it to Whitehall.

A WHITEHALL CHRONICLE of 1888 copied TROY TIMES in giving tribute to the conductors and engineers of the D. & H. "who have made travel over its lines so pleasant and contributed so much to the popularity of the roads operated by it." The conductors: No more gentlemanly conductors can be found in the land than those of the D. & H. They are ever neat li person, they pay especial attention to the safe embarkation

and debarkation of ladies, children, aged, infirm and crippled people, and are otherwise all that the most exacting director or superior officer could require. The trainmen, too, are noted for their faithfulness and civility." George and Eli Terry of Whitehall were mentioned in this group.

The engineers were described thus: "It is such men as these that draw open the throttle, hook up the lever, "plug" their engines on up grade, pierce the darkness with a watchful eye, blow the whistle, ring the bell, watch the steam gauge, try the water, fly past signal posts, blow for crossings and look out for a thousand and one chances of accident, as the engine, drawing its train of living freight, goes thundering over the rails."

In 1890 changes were made in buildings. The old passenger station was torn down. The old freight house was moved back to the east side and remodeled. In 1892-93 the present passenger station was erected on the old freight house site. Also in 1892 the new freight house was occupied. It was described as large and roomy and conveniently arranged. The offices were in the north end and a platform extended the whole length of the east side.

The history of the railroad in Whitehall is a long one. This account touches but only a few incidents and events of a colorful industry that has been a life line for many of Whitehall's families and individuals.

The Whitehall Times May 12, 1988

The Whitehall Chronicle - 1850 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Railroad fever struck Whitehall at various times. Perhaps the success of the Saratoga branch of 1848 provoked an interest. But in October 1855, a special meeting at The Parke Hotel favored the establishment of a railroad from Albany through Granville to Whitehall, the Albany Northern Railroad. A committee to meet in Albany to confer on the subject was composed of the old faithful who were interested in Whitehall's benefit: W. W. Cook, A. Martin, A. H. Griswold, N. F. Jillson, Olif Abell, T. T. Vaughn, D. S. Wright, R. C. Johnson and H. Stowell. Appointed to survey the proposed route was Engineer George E. Gray. A long article gave the advantages of the line for trade in Whitehall.

The Whitehall Times
February 15, 1979

The Tunnel - 1850
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A short time ago some material was sent to me, anonymously, so I cannot thank the person, about the changing of the tunnel in the village at the time of the elimination of the railroad crossings.

This tunnel, according to Corey's Gazeteer of 1850, was then being built to allow the new railroad that had come to town 10 December, 1848 to carry people to the Lake Station for the passenger boats going to the Adirondacks. He described the tunnel to be in length 700 feet and in width 53 feet and to cost \$100,000.

Jim Shaughnessy gave its dimensions as 682 feet and built in 1851, piercing a ledge of rock to reach the Lake Station. This Lake Station was removed to Clemons in 1873 when it was no longer needed. It was burned in 1909.

1 January 1873 the extension of the railroad from Whitehall to Plattsburgh was begun and the line opened from Whitehall to Port Henry 30 November 1874; and on to Montreal 16 November 1875. In April, 1931, an article printed in the D&H Bulletin presented an interview with Fred Gibbs, a life long railroader. Among his reminiscences was the fact he remembered when the entrances to the tunnel were boarded up for several months annually because no train operated north of that point in winter. When the boats stopped traffic on the lake in winter the tunnel was shut until navigation began the following spring.

There is a picture of a train entering the north end of the tunnel that shows it passing through solid rock. Mr. Gibbs said there was an expression that a portion of the present Champlain division is "the most solid stretch of railroad on earth," because the line is cut through and the track laid on solid rock."

According to the section of the D&H Bulletin sent me, the project of "Taking the Roof Off Whitehall's Tunnel" began 7 November 1931. The new line swung east of the passenger station. Boardman Street was carried over the tracks. The tunnel was removed and in its place was constructed an open cut, walled on both sides. Saunders and Division streets were carried over this new line by a short concrete slab top bridge extending along the track 235 feet, replacing the old tunnel. Clinton Avenue was also carried over the new tracks and Bellamy was closed between the right of way lines. This bit of work helped to change the face of sections of Whitehall.

16 November 1875 was the great day when the officials of the railroad and the dignitaries of the villages along the line rode to Plattsburgh on that first train to officially go over the new track. The following day a man entered a store in Plattsburgh with a great load of empty bottles to sell. The owner stared at the number of bottles and asked where he had obtained it. The man said, "Oh, that's only a sample. The railroad line is strewn with bottles the whole length to Whitehall."

RENSSELAER & SARATOGA RAIL ROAD.

1870. **SUMMER ARRANGEMENT.** 1870.

FOUR TRAINS DAILY RUNNING THROUGH FROM RUTLAND & WHITEHALL

SARATOGA

TROY, ALBANY AND SCHENECTADY.

Connecting at RUTLAND with Rutland and Burlington Rail Road,
AND AT WHITEHALL WITH
LAKE CHAMPLAIN STEAMERS.

Passengers from MONTREAL, ST. JOHNS, OGDENSBURGH, MALONE, and Other Points North, can go either by Rail
or Steamer from BURLINGTON on same Tickets.

On and after MONDAY, June 27, 1870

TRAINING WILL RUN AS FOLLOWS.

NIGHT EXPRESS, WITH SLEEPING CARS FROM ST. ALBANS,
RUNNING THROUGH TO TROY WITHOUT CHANGE.

Leave Rutland,	1:30 A. M.	With Passengers leaving Ogdensburgh at 1:00 P. M., Montreal 3:30, Boston's Point 6:30, St. John's 7:45, St. Albans 7:45, and Burlington at 10:00; arriving at Rutland at 1:00 A. M., and at Troy at 2:25 A. M., connecting with Hudson River Rail Road Express, arriving in New York at 11:00 A. M. Also connecting at Troy with New York Central Rail Road Day Express, arriving at Utica at 11:15 A. M., Syracuse 1:20 P. M., Rochester 3:40 P. M., Buffalo 6:45, and at Niagara Falls at 9:15 P. M.
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EXPRESS PASSENGER TRAIN, WITH PALACE CARS FROM SARATOGA?
RUNNING THROUGH TO NEW YORK WITHOUT CHANGE.

Leave Rutland,	5:00 A. M.	Leaving Whitehall at 6:15, with Passengers from Lake Champlain Steamers, leaving Ogdensburgh at 1:00 P. M., Montreal 3:30, Boston's Point 6:30, St. John's 7:45, and Burlington at 10:00; arriving at Rutland at 5:00. Leave Glen's Falls with Lake George Passengers at 5:45 A. M., arriving at Saratoga at 7:10, Schenectady next Troy 7:55, and at Albany at 9:15 A. M.; connecting at Troy with Hudson River Rail Road Express, arriving in New York at 11:15 P. M.; also connecting at Schenectady with New York Central Rail Road Day Express, arriving at Utica at 11:15 A. M., Syracuse 1:20 P. M., Rochester 3:40 P. M., Buffalo 6:45, and Suspension Bridge at 9:15 P. M.
Whitehall,	6:10 "	
Glen's Falls,	6:40 "	
Saratoga,	7:55 "	

SARATOGA AND NEW YORK SPECIAL EXPRESS, WITH PALACE CARS.
THROUGH FROM SARATOGA TO NEW YORK IN FIVE HOURS AND FORTY-FIVE MINUTES.

Leave Saratoga,	8:30 A. M.	Arrive at Troy at 9:15 A. M., Hudson 10:15, Catskill Station 11:00, Poughkeepsie 12:00 P. M., Fishkill 1:10, Garrison 1:25, and New York at 2:15 P. M.
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EXPRESS PASSENGER TRAIN.

Leave Rutland,	12:15 P. M.	With Passengers leaving Ogdensburgh at 6:00 P. M., Montreal 6:30 A. M., Boston's Point 9:30, Albany 7:45, and Burlington at 10:00 A. M., arriving at Troy at 1:00 P. M.; connecting with Hudson River Rail Road Express, arriving at New York at 1:40 P. M.; also connecting at Troy with New York Central Rail Road Night Express, arriving at Utica at 9:15, Syracuse 11:45, Rochester 5:15 A. M., Buffalo 8:45, and at Niagara Falls at 6:10 A. M.
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SARATOGA EXPRESS, WITH PALACE CARS.
RUNNING THROUGH TO NEW YORK WITHOUT CHANGE.

Leave Whitehall,	1:45 P. M.	Leave Glen's Falls with Lake George Passengers at 5:45, arriving at Saratoga at 6:30, Troy 7:00, connecting with Hudson River Rail Road Express, arriving at New York at 1:40, Hudson 3:15, Fishkill Station 4:20, Poughkeepsie 5:20, Fishkill 5:25, Garrison 5:35, and at New York at 6:45 P. M.
Glen's Falls,	2:15 "	
Saratoga,	3:40 "	

EXPRESS PASSENGER TRAIN, with Drawing Room Car Attached.

Leave Rutland,	3:00 P. M.	With Passengers leaving Boston at 1:30 A. M., Fishburgh 9:15, Rochester 10:45, and Buffalo Falls at 11:45. Leave Whitehall at 4:10 with Passengers from Lake Champlain Steamers, leaving Ogdensburgh at 1:00 P. M., Montreal 3:30, Boston's Point 6:30, St. John's 7:45, and Burlington at 10:00; arriving at Saratoga at 4:10, Troy 4:55, Albany 6:10 and Schenectady at 8:15 P. M.; connecting at Troy with Hudson River Rail Road Sleeping Train, and at Albany with People's Line and Troy Line Steamers, arriving in New York by either route at six o'clock next morning. Also connects at Schenectady with the Pacific Express on the New York Central Rail Road, arriving at Utica at 8:15 A. M., Syracuse 8:45, Rochester 9:15, Buffalo 12:00 P. M., and at Niagara Falls 12:35.
Whitehall,	4:20 "	
Glen's Falls,	4:55 "	
Saratoga,	6:20 "	

A Sunday Train for Saratoga will leave Albany at 8:00 and Troy at 8:10 A. M., arriving at Saratoga at 9:45. Returning, leave Saratoga at 9:30 P. M., arriving at Troy at 5:00 and Albany at 5:15, connecting with Hudson River Rail Road Trains at Troy, and with Steamboats at Albany for New York.

Wagner's Palace Cars Run Through from Saratoga to New York on All Trains.

For sale and hire for Tickets via "SARATOGA & ALBANY" which now comprises the Rensselaer & Saratoga, Albany Northern, Saratoga & Schenectady, Saratoga & Poughkeepsie, Rutland & Burlington, and Troy & Albany & Glen's Falls Railroads, all under one management, rendering convenient rates.

THROUGH TICKETS SOLD AND BAGGAGE CHECKED TO ALL POINTS.

O. N. CRANDELL,
General Ticket Agent.

I. V. BAKER,
Superintendent.

(This copy of the R & S Railroad schedule is from my files kb)

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The Whitehall Independent

August 23, 1984

The Railroad

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Another early Whitehaller who joined the railroad force was Nicholas Corbett. When a small boy, he was always thrilled when the railroad men waved at him from the train. Before the days of "Safety First" he was taken for a ride on an engine as it ran between Whitehall and the Lake Station at the Elbow steamboat landing. He "paid" his way by feeding chunks of wood into the firebox. His fascination with locomotives led to his entering railroading 1 May 1868 on the Rensselaer and Saratoga line.

Origins of customs often rise from simple beginnings. The origin of the bell cord was thus: In early days, engineers set the rules for running the train. Conductors collected fares, supervised the loading and the unloading of freight, and shouted "All Aboard." If a passenger became a nuisance or other emergencies arose, the conductor had no way to notify the engineer to stop the train.

Conductor Ayers was determined to correct this situation. He rigged a stout twine to reach the locomotive from the rear car. At the end next to the engineer he fixed a block of wood. When the cord was pulled, the wood was raised. His engineers didn't want his authority to run the train, threatened and cut the stick loose. Ayers rigged the cord a second day and told the engineer that the device would work or one of them would be "licked." The engineer cut the cord again. Ayers pulled off his coat but the engineer wouldn't get off the train. Ayers climbed aboard, but before the engineer could jump off the other side Ayers hit him under the ear. This settled the question. The twine and stick became a part of the railroad train procedure. It was adopted and in a short time a bell or gong took the place of the stick.

Nicholas saw Whitehall in his fifty years of service grow to a population of 5,000 and from an occasional house at the south end of town to a substantial population. This growth was due, he thought, largely to the railroad. Whitehall was the dividing point between the Saratoga Division and the Champlain Division and the terminus of the Rutland branch.

He began work in the engine barn that stood a short distance east of the present freight house. Other buildings of the shop plant were a machine shop, a blacksmith shop, and a rail shop. The yards were small. The freight house stood where the present passenger station* is located and the first passenger station stood a few yards west.

When Nicholas started work in 1868 six little wood engines "turned" or "tied up" at Whitehall. He had to polish their brass trimmings and make the equipment spotless. In May 1869 he became a fireman on "Plattsburgh" running between the yards and Lake Station. Over the years he worked with the well known John, George and Moses Terry, Fred Bradshaw, Tim Hurley, Ed Weatherly and Ben Holcomb. He worked on the "Hill" freight to Rutland and on the first hard coal burners, Rutland and Ticonderoga.

**The passenger station no longer exists in 2008. (kb)*

The Whitehall Times
September 3, 1987

The Washington County News - 1871
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In the same issue of the paper another mode of transportation was discussed. The Renesslaer and Saratoga had been leased to the Delaware and Hudson Company. Whitehall was to be one of the latter's depots for northern New York and Canada. Property on the Bar had been obtained along and below the Lake Station at the Elbow for the extension of the railroad north and work was soon to be begun on the coal yards for this product going north and the iron going south. Whitehall transportation was on the increase.

The Whitehall Times
September 17, 1987

The Washington County News - 1871
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In 1871 the D&H Railway Company had acquired property on the Bar and was planning to develop it, J. D. Hancock on 13 June is to begin the work. The marsh, a fruitful place of ague and fever, was to be put into docks and slips for the use of the New York and Canada Railroad. The cleaning of the Marsh would add to the health of the village.

The Whitehall Times
July 14, 1988

The Whitehall Chronicle - 1874
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Railroad North: The New York and Canada Railroad north from Whitehall was nearly ready in June for iron. It was some distance south from Pulpit Point. Some notable things happened in its construction. There was a long trestle from the bridge and draw at the mouth of South Bay; an iron bridge, draw, and tunnel at Ticonderoga; and rock cuts at and near Putnam Landing and Pulpit Point

Difficulties had to be overcome. In some places the track was spread out so that there was quite a garden spot where once a marsh was. In one place just south of Putnam Landing they were obliged to sink several canal boats along the track to keep it in

position. In another place they had to make a kind of crib in which to contain the earth. As fast as a section was completed on the Lake Champlain coast, the laborers were sent to the new railroad between Lake Champlain and Lake George so that both roads would be completed very nearly at the same time. Early fall was the expected time for the trains to be running regularly unless something extraordinary happened.

The Whitehall Times
June 2, 1988

The Whitehall Chronicle - 1874
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In 1874 the railroad was to be extended northward from Whitehall, 21 February. 172 laborers from New York arrived by train in the morning. Mr. Whalen marched them to the village hall where they had dinner and were taken to Benson by wagon, from where they were distributed above the line of the railroad in Putnam and sections adjoining. At this time the tunnel on the line at Ticonderoga had been broken through, the longest one on the line except the one at Willsborough.

The Whitehall Times
June 30, 1988

The Whitehall Chronicle - 1874
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Payday of the railroad: In 1874 the New York and Canada Railroad was being constructed. On payday the streets were filled with laborers out for a holiday. When the boat was ready to take them back to their boarding house to the north, the crowd had become pretty unruly. The boat sailed with many of the men left behind. At Cold Spring many were put off. The remainder promised to behave, only after Pulpit Point was reached did the war cease.

The Whitehall Times
October 30, 1975

September – October, 1875
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The last rail was laid and the last spike driven on the New York and Canada Railroad, Wednesday 20 October. This makes the connection complete between Montreal and New York via Plattsburgh and Willsboro tunnel and Whitehall and doubtless marks a new and important era in the development of the resources of the western border of Lake Champlain. The work of ballasting is proceeding rapidly and the road will probably be ready for regular trains in a few weeks.

The Whitehall Times
November 27, 1975

November, 1875
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

During the winter of 1871-72 the D&H canal company planned the New York Canada Railroad line. This two-fold program was to open up more extensive markets for their coal and to prevent any other company from doing the same thing in competition with their boats plying between Whitehall and Canada on Lake Champlain. The cost was seven million dollars to construct 134 miles of rail.

The first excursion on this line was 16, November. A nine-car train passed through Whitehall. It was received with the firing of a cannon and music by the Cornet band. It halted but a moment for eleven Whitehallers to board for the remainder of the trip.

The Whitehall Times
September 23, 1976

September, 1876
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A group of engineers were in town seeking to interest citizens in a Whitehall-to-Granville railroad. It would extend into Vermont and connect with the eastern seaboard. A promising prospect was that lumber, now shipped from Burlington, would come to Whitehall by boat and be sent by rail to Brattleboro. This would bring back the old activity on Whitehall wharves that had been taken.

The Whitehall Times
October 21, 1976

October, 1876
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The last rail was laid for the New York and Canada railroad 25 October. This completed the road to Montreal. It was expected that ballasting would be finished in a few weeks and the trains would run. This was the knell of the lake boat era from Whitehall down the lake.

The Whitehall Times
November 30, 1978

October, 1878
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Delaware and Hudson Canal company commenced to withdraw their summer coaches from the Saratoga division 27 Sept. and place their winter coaches, with stoves in them in their stead.

The Whitehall Times
March 13, 1980

March, 1880
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The town voted that should the D&H Canal company move its shops from Green Island to Whitehall, they would be exempted from additional assessment and taxation for ten years.

The Whitehall Times
June 26, 1980

Railroad - 1880
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

D&H Canal Company ordered all workmen on passenger trains to wear uniforms of blue cloth with brass buttons and new caps; they should also call, on leaving a station, the name of the next stopping place and keep fresh ice water in all tanks.

Summer train travel convenience for the Adirondacks: A new train was placed on the Champlain railroad division. It left at 11:25 a.m. on the arrival of the Albany train. It reached Baldwin at 12:30 where it met the Lake George steamer **Ganouski** and took passengers to Fort Ticonderoga, arriving at 12:55 to connect with the Montreal train and the steamer **Vermont**. It left for Baldwin at 1:13 p.m., arriving there to connect with **Ganouski** for Caldwell (Lake; George). It left Baldwin at 1:40 p.m. and "wildcatted" back to Whitehall.

The Whitehall Times
June 26, 1980

Railroad - 1880
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

At this time plans were made in order to move the depot west ten feet and put new tracks through the village, elevating the road bed at the same time.

The Whitehall Times
April 2, 1981

March, 1881
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The D&H Coal Company was establishing a coal depot in Whitehall. The dock property below the Elbow, formerly used by the steamboat company, would be the distributing point for all coal for northern New York and Canada, and all necessary arrangements would soon be prepared. The company would soon (April 1) be shipping coal to this point with Jesse L. Eddy in charge of the business. The D&H Canal Company will celebrate in April, 1881, its 57th birthday. It owns a canal 108 miles long and owns and operates 1141 miles of railroad. It also owns 1000 canal boats, 21 coal mines and 25,000 acres of coal lines. Its office building in New York City cost

\$1,600,000. The Saratoga and Rensselaer Railroad that reached Whitehall in 1848 was taken over by the D&H Canal Company.

The Whitehall Times

May 21, 1981

May, 1881

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Professor Butler invented an article to save fingers and hands from being smashed when coupling cars — a contrivance whereby the link is raised and held in position to enter the coupling on the cars to be attached, simple and cheap. The link in the coupling now used has to be held in position by hand until the pin can be dropped into place.

The Whitehall Times

June, 1981

June, 1881

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

There was great cause for concern at this time over the fact that the D&H Canal Company was expected to carry all the iron ore mined at Port Henry and Crown Point. This was not a bright prospect for the canal. Canal shipments were 23 boat loads a day. Each boat carried 120 tons. A car could carry 10 tons so that one boat load would make 12 car loads and 23 boat loads would make 276 car loads. However, the railroad ran 12 months a year while the canal was open only a few months. This would be a great blow to Whitehall's canal industries.

The Whitehall Times

November 25, 1982

November, 1882

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In 1882 four trains left Whitehall for the south — accommodation, 6:45 a.m.; mail at 4:25 p.m.; New York Express, 1:45 p.m. and 10:05 a.m. For the north, Ticonderoga, 11:40 a.m.; Montreal Express, 2:10 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. East, mail, 11:45 a.m.; accommodation, 7:50 p.m.

The Whitehall Times
February 24, 1983

January, 1883
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The railroad on Canal Street, now Broadway, was the same hazard for horses as it was later for automobile drivers. On 15 January the engine of the train struck the sleigh of Ed Loomis, breaking one of the bobbies. Remember, about 50 years later an engine caught the fender of a school teacher's car in an ice rut and flipped it backward with no injury to the occupants.

The Whitehall Independent
November 16, 1983

October, 1883
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Because of the many injuries on the D&H Canal Company to employees in the Northern department, caused by stepping too far between the cars to couple them, Superintendent Vorhees ordered coupling sticks to be used. No coupling was to be made without them.

The Whitehall Independent
December 2, 1984

Summer Months 1884
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

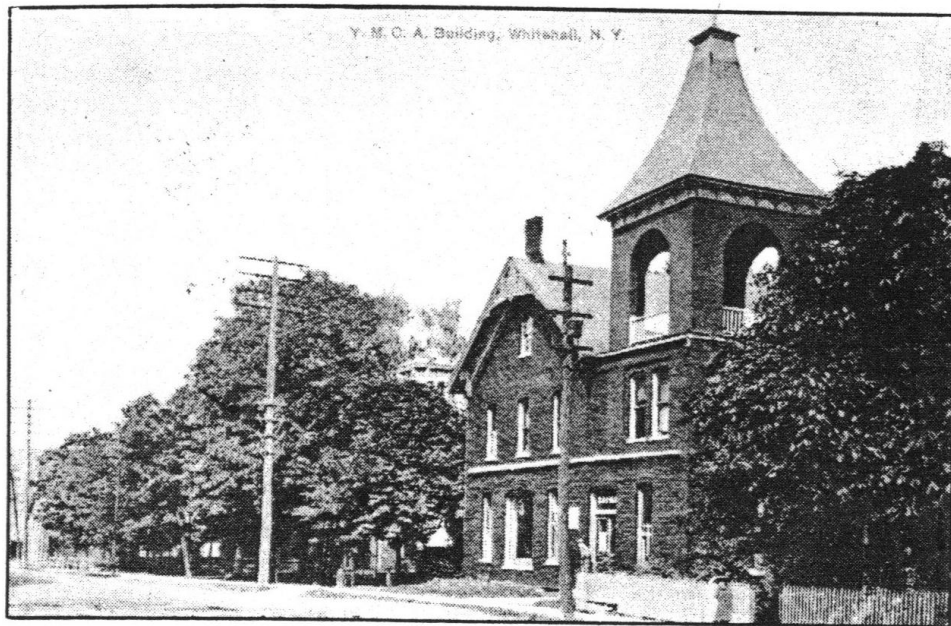
The D & H Company completed new passenger cars for the R & S Railroad. There were seats with high backs comfortable for a sleepy passenger. They were higher than the old ones and invited the passenger to put his head back for a nice nap. On 4 July the company offered half fare from any station on the line. The tickets were good for two days. The newspaper editor stated that this was a good time and way to view our section on a trip from New York to Montreal. In a few hours all the grandeur of the Hudson, Saratoga, Lake George, Lake Champlain, the Adirondacks and the St. Lawrence offer an exhibition so various. The D&H Canal Company had the best facilities to view it.

The man-slaying, coupling pin was abolished. The news read that after 1 July 1884, no link coupling pin was to be permitted on any exclusive mail or passenger train and after one year, every mail and passenger train should be provided with air or some

other kind of brake operated from the locomotive. After 1 July 1885, all freight cars in use in the state were to be provided with an automatic car coupling. All switches were to be replaced with some, kind of safety switch-which would prevent the derailment of a train by a misplaced switch interlocked with distant signals. So many accidents were reported of fingers lost in dropping those pins to join the links!

**The Whitehall Times
July 25, 1985**

**The Railroad Y.M.C.A. Association - 1885
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**



Y.M.C.A. in 1885

In 1885 a red brick building stood on the east side of Canal Street (Broadway) opposite the Bascom House. This latter building was located on the southwest corner of Gilmore Street in the latter part of the nineteenth century.

On 2 September 1885 the rooms in this brick store of H.G. Burleigh were formally opened and dedicated to the Railroad Young Men's Christian Association. Being near the depot it was a convenient spot for the railroad men for relaxation. It had been attractively fitted out for them. Through the middle of the building folding doors had been installed that, when necessary, a long room for meetings could be provided.

The walls were papered and shelves and bookcases provided for books and newspapers.

About 300 citizens arrived before 8 p.m. and filled the place to overflowing. Many had to be turned away. Every church denomination was represented as the Association had a broad background of Christian religion. The Association had over 100

organizations in New York State alone. Every member was permitted the privileges of them all. The rooms offered interesting diversions to the employees.

The program participants were dignitaries of the town and State. W. B. Eddy, president of the local R.R.Y.M.C.A. welcomed the assembly. George A. Hall, president of the state organization, gave a history of the association. Theodore Voorhees, superintendent of the D & H Canal Railroad, gave an account of the progress of that company. Mr. Munro, secretary of the Troy R.R.Y.M.C.A., lauded the railroad's attention to its employees. Music was furnished by a local quartet. Two sisters, Minnie and Malvina Renois, and two brothers, E. W. and H. H. Skeels were the members with Nettie Smith at the organ. Rev. Mr. Zweifel of the Methodist Church offered prayers W. B. Eddy again took the chair and quite frankly told the assembly the Association needed \$300 to meet the expenses of the building. He introduced the Honorable H. G. Burleigh who praised the work of the association and started the subscription with \$100. In early days Whitehall's welfare in public and private affairs was aided greatly by subscription lists. Mr. Burleigh pointed out another person who could help W. W. Cook immediately delivered a like speech and pledged \$100. The next day Jesse Eddy circulated the subscription list and fourteen other citizens raised the total to \$310.

After the meeting the guests were invited to a feast provided by the ladies of Whitehall. They had done much to place the association on a favorable status.

The Whitehall Times **July 17, 1886**

100 Years Ago in Whitehall - 1886 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

The woodshed of the D&H burned to the ground. It had storage for lumber and tools and provided lodging for some Italian workers.

The first YMCA building had been completed by 1 October 1885 and the rooms opened with the kindness of H. Burliegh. In July 1886 an annual report showed that the \$310 subscribed had furnished nine weeklies and ten monthlies including magazines. For amusement there were games of chess, checkers, dominoes, crocklinole, and parlor quoits. A piano had been furnished by the Ladies Auxiliary and bath tubs by the D&H. The average daily attendance was 45 and baths taken 563. There had been two educational classes with sixteen members. Five free entertainments had been given and four with admission charge, average attendance 214. A religious meeting was held every Sunday. Daily visits were made to the sick and to railroad men. Papers were placed in cabooses. Plans were in progress for winter classes in bookkeeping, penmanship, mechanical drawing, vocal music, and a scientific class. It was hoped to broaden the religious aspect with a Bible class and cottage weekly meetings.

The Whitehall Independent
January 8, 1986

The Railroad Y.M.C.A. Association Auxiliary - 1886
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Ladies Auxiliaries - what purpose did they serve? Some men's organizations want them; some don't. The Railroad Y.M.C.A. in January 1886 would want this group if all its aims were lived up to, it seems. The object of this Ladies Auxiliary was to assist the R.R. Y.M.C.A. of the village in its work among the young men and was calculated to appeal to the heart of every wife, mother, sister, and friend of young men in the land. This could be done in various ways:

1. By inducting young men to become members of the association and frequent its rooms.
2. By using all social influence to bear upon this aim.
3. By taking charge, as only ladies know how to do, of the association room, exercising their basic taste and ingenuity in making them compete favorably with club rooms and other places of public resort, giving them a homelike, attractive, and comfortable aspect, seeing that neatness and order pervade the appointments, and planting a cordial welcome on every object that meets the gaze of the young men.
4. By taking charge of and making welcome ntions and socials given at si.....
5. By bringing in as many ladies as possible to aid in this noble work, thereby making the membership fee of 50 cents a year a great power in effecting the above objects, and which, while small to each individual, would be a great help to the cause in hand.

The primary object of the Auxiliary is to pay for the elegant Fisher piano in the room.

"This is the noble work which the ladies have set out to accomplish, and already they have done much to assist the association. The ladies are assisting for the auxiliary. If they call on you, give them your name."

A notice the following week gave this report: The social gathering of men at the R.R. Y.M.C.A. rooms, Friday evenings, are becoming popular. The entertainment of these occasions consists of instrumental and vocal music, and social intercourse. A program on 8 January consisted of solos by Messrs. Rodd and Conery, and a baritone solo by Lawrence Tefft. George H. Chapin presided at the piano. These socials will be conducted on Friday evenings during the winter and are free to all men who may desire to attend.

The Whitehall Times
January 8, 1987

The Railroad Y.M.C.A. - 1887
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Y.M.C.A. reported that their association room was a pleasant place to spend an hour. It was open from 9 a.m. until 10 p.m. and had something to amuse and profit members whenever they called. A street lamp had just been placed in front of the building.

The D&H Railroad announced a reduction in fare after 1 January on the Saratoga and Champlain divisions. On the Saratoga it was 1/2 cent a mile and on the Champlain, 1 cent a mile, from 4 to 3 cents. It was hoped that this reduction would increase travel and especially divert summer travel from the White Mountains and other New England resorts to the Adirondacks. The Adirondacks were the new "frontier" in resort at this time.

The Whitehall Times
January 22, 1987

Whitehall in 1887
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In this year D&H Canal Company put into practice a new system of cash fare collecting from books of 100 slips. A passenger received a receipt which contained a number and the amount of the fare. The conductor's stub contained the name of the station, the amount of the fare. To prevent attempts to use the receipt for an additional trip, the passenger's receipt had a number in large red figures and a number in small red figures, 0 to 1,000 in the series. A conductor could tell from his book if an attempt at fraud was being made.

The Whitehall Times
October 3, 1974

Railroad - 1892
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Since the present D&H depot has recently been in the news, these items of The Whitehall TIMES in 1892 may be of interest.

6 Oct.: A gang of men began this forenoon to measure out the ground for a new D&H passenger depot. The old freight house will be removed at once and work upon the new building will probably begin very soon.

20 Oct. The New Depot: The foundation for the new passenger depot is almost completed and work will be rushed along on the superstructure when it is once started. The old freight depot has been moved away. The new station will stand about 50 feet south of where the freight depot was. The track next to the old depot is being thrown over and will hereafter be a main line track. The north and south bound trains will run on one side of the depot and east bound trains on the other. The approach will be from McFarran's Crossing and an arcade similar to that at Saratoga will be built at the north end. Contractor Ackrout of Troy has the contract.

1 Dec.: The new building now being erected in this place by the D&H for a depot will be finished and ready for occupancy about the first of January. It will consist of four general departments. The north portion will be occupied as an express office; next is the baggage room, ladies' room and general waiting room. The building is 27 feet 4 inches wide by 87 feet and when completed will be a handsome structure. The grounds

The Whitehall Times

August 11, 1983

A Train Wreck - 1894

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Train wrecks were always reported with large headlines because so many people used the cars as a means of transportation. How accidents could happen with set rails and well supervised tracks was a mystery in many cases. An example is the wreck on 3 December 1894 on the morning train of the D & H. The site was one and a half miles north of Port Henry near the trestle at the Cheever.

The piece of track was new, including the rails, ties, and ballast. The train was composed of the locomotive, tender, baggage and express car, mail car, smoker, a parlor car, and two day-coaches. The train was not exceeding the 35 mile limit along the many curves of this area.

Suddenly a bumping and jolting occurred and the cars left the track careening to the lakeside. Some of the jolting was caused by the setting of the brakes. Cars went sideways and some endwise into cold Lake Champlain. The locomotive did not leave the tracks. The tender was entirely submerged. The baggage car fell on its side in the water. The mail car settled with its roof out of water. The baggage car roof was torn off by the collision with other cars. The heavy boxes and trunks were hurled about in the car and caused injuries to the six men occupying it. Conductor McLaughlin was thrown through the roof opening about 75 feet away in the lake but he was able to swim. Unfortunately postal Clerk Rouse was drowned and express man Quinn and baggage man Place died of their wounds. Another happening was that the Company's attorney was on the train and settled then and there with the passengers for their losses. The averages loss was \$25. The Company's loss was \$15,000. This was termed one of the worst accidents of the D&H up to this time. Fortunately it occurred in the daytime or the loss of life probably would have been greater.

One car holding 60 immigrants went sideways into the lake but they were able to scramble out unhurt. The smoking car with many passengers was prevented from entering the water by a telegraph pole which caught the car. One of the trunks of the parlor car left the track but the car remained upright. Some of the passengers were rescued by a man nearby in a rowboat.

There was no panic. Passengers assisted in relieving the suffering and distress, notably three women from Plattsburgh. They all walked the 1 ½ miles into Port Henry where they were taken into the home of Congressman Wallace T. Foote.

What was remarkable about the accident was the small loss.

The Whitehall Times September 23, 1982

The Whitehall and Granville Electric Railroad - 1900 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In 1900 a dream of an electric railroad was formed in Whitehall and surrounding communities. Although short-lived, it raised the consciousness of the inhabitants of the area to awareness of the natural resources of the northern part of Washington County.

On 11 September 1900 the Whitehall and Granville Railroad Company was incorporated with a capital stock of \$750,000. The company was organized 13 September with 13 directors of whom Emmett J. Gray of Whitehall was president; E. R. Norton of Granville, vice president; D. D. Woodard of Granville, treasurer (he established the National Bank of Whitehall); Charles I. Baker of Troy, secretary; and Charles B. Story of Hoosick Falls, general manager.

The railroad was to start at Whitehall, pass through East Whitehall, near the New York villages of North Granville, Truthville, Middle Granville, and Granville to the village of West Pawlet, Vermont, a distance of 20 miles. It was proposed to tap the various slate quarries of these communities, among them the South Poultney Slate vein between Poultney, Vt., and Granville, the Algonquin Red Slate company of Truthville, and the Mettawee Slate Company of Hatch Hill.

It was estimated this road would serve a population of about 20,000 — 5,000 in Whitehall, 4,000 in Granville, 700 in West Pawlet, and the rest in smaller villages and farm districts along the route.

The object of the road was to provide for the transportation of freight and the accommodations of passengers across the northern section of Washington County. More than 1300 men were employed in the slate quarries along the line and could be carried to the quarries operating continuously throughout the year, paying \$1.00 to \$2.25 per month to be carried. The scenery along the route through the foothills of the Adirondacks would aid the passenger traffic as summer visitors were increasing each year to this section. It would encourage the construction of hotels and cottages along the road. Lake St. Catherine already had a hotel at each end of the lake. This was a beautiful lake with spring fed water. A small steam boat was already operating. The road was expected to operate with the Delaware and Hudson railroad in running excursions during the summer

months. Professor Brown of the Granville High School reported that 31 pupils resided along the road outside the village and that he believed at least 80 non-resident pupils would ride. The second and really main purpose of the new line was to provide better transportation and its cost for freight, especially the slate of all colors in the area. A famous slate was the red one which is said to be produced only in Washington County. This electric road would deliver freight in car load lots to Whitehall harbor to be transshipped through Lake Champlain to Canada and on to the Welland Canal for the west and south via canal to Albany, the Hudson River; and the Erie Canal to Buffalo.

The story will be continued next week.

The Whitehall Times September 30, 1982

The Whitehall and Granville Railroad (2) Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

After the purposes of the Whitehall and Granville Railroad Company had been set forth, it remained for proof that the line could be successful. Beside the passenger traffic, the rich veins of the slates of all descriptions in colors were some distance from the steam railroad. The product had to be carted by teams at 25 cents to \$1.00 a ton. The new electric road would reduce this expense by running the line near the veins with the use of side tracks which could take the regular freight from the steam railroad direct to the quarries and return, reducing the cartage to a minimum. In the same way coal and supplies for the quarries could be handled and a profit to the electric line be made.

The annual 100,000 tons from the quarries could be doubled and when shipping facilities could be provided there would be competition with quarries from other sections of the country.

The falls on the Mettawee River had a fall of 300 feet in 15 miles paralleling this route that could furnish water power for the establishment of manufactories. The power for operating the electric lines was expected to be developed from a point at which a dam could be built on rocks over which the river flowed, giving a head of 60 feet for eight months of the year. The remaining power could be derived from a steam power plant located about one-half mile from the main line at a point distant equally from the terminals.

The freight traffic through this slate section was large. It was estimated that over 1200 car loads of general merchandise were received at Granville during the year and 3,000 carloads of other materials shipped out. This was besides the freight shipped from West Pawlet and Middle Granville and other large shipping points.

The originators of the organization believed 350,000 dollars would be sufficient to construct and equip the road and the earning capacity would exceed double the interest and investment with some left over as a sinking fund.

Figures accompanied this proposition: Passenger income \$25-545 per day including 15 pupils from the White School House and from Hatch School House to Whitehall; freight earnings on slate, general merchandise and coal \$192 per day; while

expenses, including labor for motormen and conductors and power house would be \$130.89 per day. This would give net earnings per year of \$46,014.80 a year.

These estimates were arrived at after consultation with residents along the road, commercial travelers (drummers), business men of the villages of Whitehall and Granville and the men employed at the quarries.

On 7 June 1901 a contract was signed with the Despatch Construction Company of Chicago, Ill., to build and equip ready for operation a first class electric railroad for \$380,000 in bonds and \$350,000 in stocks from the Whitehall and Granville Railroad Company. The work was to begin within 30 days. (To be concluded)

The Whitehall Times October 7, 1982

The Whitehall and Granville Railroad Company (3) Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Despatch Construction Company spent about \$40,000 upon the sub-grade of the Whitehall and Granville Railroad Company line up to November. But owing to financial embarrassment occasioned by the failure to realize funds from another road at Massena, N.Y., the company failed and practically abandoned the Whitehall and Granville contract. No bonds had been issued at this time, and the only excuse the construction company gave was lack of funds.

There were delays over securing the right of way or outright purchase of land along the line. When stocks and bonds were issued they did not find a ready market. The Railroad Company attempted through advertising and influence of friends to persuade other companies to take over the construction and finish the line, but was unsuccessful.

On 4 October 1904 an agreement was made whereby the Whitehall and Granville Railroad turned over to John W. Howe and Byron J. Town of Saratoga all real property and easements of the company.

In June 1905 legal council determined that there had been no default on the part of the railroad company and that no obligation or liability to the construction company remained. Thus ended the dream of an electric railroad winding over the slate quarry area between Whitehall and Granville. Doubtless some part of the actual sub base of the road can be seen if one looks.

This project was attempted at the entry to the 20th century. Using some of the figures given for products shipped over the regular railroad line at that time a contrast can be made to modern shipments. Youths of today do not know that barrels and tubs were used for shipments of commodities; in fact a barrel or tub would be a curiosity. How many homes have a flour barrel or sugar barrel in their pantries; in fact, how many even have pantries? Here are some figures shipped through this area at the turn of the century: wool, 20,000 pounds; apples, 22,000 barrels; roofing slate, 19,500 tons; paint, 1500 tons; coal 62,000 tons; potatoes, 150 carloads; flour, 7183 barrels; sugar, 1948 barrels; lard, 1,090 tubs; cement, 30 tons; salt, 148 tons; nails, 18 tons; stoves, 150 tons;

floor tiles, 759 tons; molasses, 109 barrels; pork and ham, 146 barrels; grain and feed, 41,310 tons.

Of the 16 businessmen mentioned as interested in the affairs of this proposed rail road, only five were named. A short biographical note on them shows that most came to Whitehall from other places and that they were successful in their chosen lines.

Emmett J. Gray, president of the line, entered partnership in the milling industry with his father-in-law, R. M. Witherbee. After that they ran the R. M. Witherbee General Store that was located in various places throughout the village.

John O'Neil had one of the first department stores in the area with a wholesale and retail liquor store in addition. His business was conducted in the Temple of Economy, the store now containing Woodcock's Pharmacy*. He was a large property owner with property along Main Street from the Town Building to Pippo's Store and from the drugstore to Division Street. He was an interested public official.

Charles W. Harding was a clerk for 4 years in the H. R. Wait general store until in 1886 he established the clothing store of Harding, Bascom and Company, succeeded later by other partnerships in the present Barber's Clothiers.

James H. Burdett was a member of the lumber company of Burdett Brothers and Company, one of the large lumber concerns that were in Whitehall.

**Burned in the early 1990's. (kb)*

The lawyer for some of the legal affairs of the railroad was J. Sanford Potter, brother of Judge Joseph Potter, with a home beside the present Skene Manor. He was a member of the firm of Lillie and Potter.

The Whitehall Independent August 15, 1984

Delaware and Hudson Bulletin Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

"This paper will be published from time to time for the information of the men who operate the Railroad in the belief that mutual understanding of the problems we all have will help us solve them for our mutual welfare." This statement accompanied the early issues of the D & H Bulletin.

The first issue appeared April 1, 1921 and was printed regularly, dated on the first and fifteenth of each month. At first it was one sheet printed on one side only. Gradually both sides were filled and more pages added. Volume Two started January 1, 1922. Before the third volume appeared, the word Bulletin had been added to the masthead. The Bulletin was distributed at the time of delivery of pay checks.

The topics included anything that might be of interest to man, not only to railroaders but some regular items became standard fare like the biographical sketches of retiring railroaders, necrology, laws and poems. Pictures and illustrative material followed.

The research library has a file of these papers, though not complete with all issues. Whitehall was, of course, one of the communities written about, and much is

learned about the early industry and its workers in this village. In an early issue of 1922 a history of the Gravity Railroad was written. In the same issue was Jack Moore's description of the D&H Employees' minstrel show held in Whitehall's armory, packed to the doors. This was followed by the history of the birth of the Delaware and Hudson Railroad and an article "Safety First - Wear Goggles."

One of the first Whitehall men written about was George Rich, who began his railroading on the Rensselaer and Saratoga Railroad in Saratoga. In 1868 this line extended from Whitehall to about one mile north on the Lake to the Lake Station where coal was transferred to canal boats. At that time the great task of the company was the leveling of land up above the flood level. In time of high water the flooding caused damage and inconvenience to traffic. The gravel used for the leveling was brought from the Rutland branch.

During Mr. Rich's service the locomotives were the small wood burning type and the cars were small. Speed was approximately 35 miles an hour and delays were common because of the single track and long waiting for a train which had the right of way. Wax candles were placed in chandeliers at each end of the coaches for light and the coaches were equipped with wood and later coal stoves. Often trains were stalled in snow storms. Wreck trains were not common. If accidents occurred it was a matter of pride for the crew members to find a solution to the problem. At this time of Mr. Rich's service, Whitehall was a thriving center of industry with a large grist mill, carpet factory, sash and door factory, machine shop, iron foundry. Mr. Rich became a fireman on the passenger train between Whitehall and Troy. In 1873 to 1910 he was a train baggage man and then a trainman and baggage man on the Whitehall and Rutland run until retirement in 1917.

The Whitehall Independent September 5, 1984

Other Railroad Recollections Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Martin Gully (1869-1919) a Whitehaller, told of the length of rails, fifteen feet long secured by mercurial "chairs". The first split switch was laid at South Bay, one and a half miles north of Lake Station. Ties were distributed along the route by being thrown from the train. Trailers followed on foot to place them. This was an arduous task, not only in the heavy manual labor of handling the ties but the speed necessary to keep up with the train.

In Mr. Gully's time, locomotives were fired with "lump" coal. The lumps were hard coal of fifty pounds or more. Before coal was used, wood was the fuel. Mr. Crane (1867-1917) said most of the firemen did not use gloves as a pair did not last a day. The sharp slivers, the bark, and projections where small branches and limbs had been broken off were treacherous. Wooding stations were located at Green Island, Mechanicville, Ballston Spa, Fort Edward, and Whitehall.

Along with the wooding stations were the water tanks, huge cylindrical affairs raised on open frameworks from which projected hinged spouts balanced with heavy weights.

Daniel B. Corbett (1869-1918), another Whitehaller, was a brother of Nicholas Corbett. Before entering the life of a railroader, Daniel worked with George Hall in his drug store for several years. Then he became a mason's helper and assisted in building Our Lady of Angels Church (1868-1872). He then worked in the thriving sash and blind factory.

When the D & H line was extended north between Crown Point and Port Henry, he was a laborer on the Five Mile Stretch. Steam shovels were not in use then and grading was done by hand with pick and shovels with the assistance of horses and dump trucks. Daniel remembered the long trestle across Bulwagga Bay. Water filled much of the land now occupied by the railroad yards. Many truckloads of dirt and gravel were used to make today's yards. He mentioned a stage coach he rode from Chipman's Point to Whitehall.

The Corbett family seems to be an example of a railroad family. Nicholas and Daniel B. were brothers. Nicholas' son, William Nicholas, became an engineer. Daniel B. married Mary Jane Cavanaugh whose brothers David and Philip were engineer and conductor. Of this marriage, of fifteen children Daniel P. was a conductor; Lawrence, a Book of Rules Examiner; Merritt, a boilermaker who learned his trade in Colonie shops; and Mrs. John O'Donnel's husband, an engineer.

In Crane's time, valves were oiled outside the engine. Tallow was used. The tallow was kept hot by using tallow cans fitted in the smoke box. Coming north oiling was done at Waterford Junction, Ballston Spa, Saratoga Springs, Smith's Basin, and Comstock. Crane cleaned engines and polished metal with waste, soft white threads as it came from the textile mills.

The Whitehall Independent

September 12, 1984

More Recollections

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The account of Fred Edgar Austin provides other information on Whitehall than just the railroad. Fred was born in West Haven of the pioneer Anthony Austin who helped settle that area. Like so many of the young men of that time, he had to forego an education, though for a short time he attended a select school in Whitehall, which was possibly that boys' school held in the Vaughan Hotel (Chase's).

Other Whitehall experiences were his work with I. D. LaBar, a photographer, where he practiced his artistic ability. He clerked in James Wood's grocery store and in a drug store. This could have been in the eight year period when his father Augustus Austin had a grocery business on Canal Street in the vicinity of the J. W. Boyd drug store.

Fred was the first Austin to be employed on the railroad in Whitehall. Some of his work was assisting in building the trestles across the mouth of South Bay, Nigger Marsh (the area of land once owned by Philip Skene's sister Elizabeth), and Mill Bay on the west side of the lake. A greater part of his time was spent in diving for tools that had been carelessly dropped into the water.

13 April 1870 (not an unlucky day for him), he was enticed into entering the local machine shops - located between the first passenger station and the present (1924) shops. There was one pit in the machine shop and four or five in the roundhouse. When he went there, a locomotive bell, mounted on a frame on top of the shop, marked the time. He advanced the idea of a shop whistle and he was privileged to blow the first whistle of its kind heard in Whitehall.

The turntable was not installed until the new shops were installed. A wye had served the turning of equipment before that. As a clerk in this period he kept the time of 24 or 25 men in the machine shops and roundhouse and the night force of two or three men in the roundhouse.

Mr. Austin became a machinist. In later life his talent in colors was developed. He sold his paintings, but adorned his own home with them also. Many are doubtless still in existence - hopefully signed.

In the 1860s there was no turntable in Whitehall. The wye was formed by the tracks of the Rutland branch as they connected with the main line being used to turn locomotives and other equipment. There were still no callers, so all extra men were on duty at the shops from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Whitehall Independent September 19, 1984

Railroad Reminiscences Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Another Whitehall railroad man was William H. Long (service 1870 to 1923). At twelve years of age he joined the trackmen in laying rails in the vicinity of the Lake Station and remained on that project until the track reached Putnam. A large and strong lad for his age, he worked with the men in the heavier work. When the work train was stationed at Dresden, he cared for the engine. When he was twenty years old, he was running a passenger train.

In an April issue of the D&H Company Bulletin, a fuller description of the care of the engines was made. It gives a sense of the devotion that railroad people have to their lifework. It reads thus: "Even a dingy, single story, smoke-begrimed, shabby wooden engine house of fifty (now 134) years ago was beloved. There in the light of hand torches, engineers and firemen performed a work the practice of which passed with the closing of their careers. They actually lived with their engines. Not alone did they know how to operate them, but they knew, too, how to keep them in repair. When they became involved in trouble out on the road, they were depended upon to solve their own problems. There was no other alternative. They did not have recourse to the facilities

provided today for such emergencies. Augmenting the labor of engines crews in keeping their engines spick and span was the wiper, who in many instances was but a locomotive fireman in the making. It was he who crawled over and under and in between in search of grease and dirt. And it was he too, who thought his time had come to an end when by chance an engineer discovered a dirty link or a brass acorn or some other fandangle that had escaped his attention."

The Whitehall Times
February 27, 1986

Bits and Pieces in 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The D&H planned to quit Main Street. It purchased from the village parcels of the old canal land south of Boardman Street Bridge for \$2500. Sometime before it had applied for canal land north of Boardman Street, there was a great deal of switching on Main Street (Broadway) and this was thought would be a great improvement.

The Whitehall Times
March 6, 1986

Bits and Pieces in 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The town meeting records gave more information on the purchase of the old canal bed by the railroad. The land in the village was to be sold for \$400 an acre plus interest at 6 percent and the land south of Boardman Street at \$250 plus interest at 6 percent.

The Whitehall Times
March 20, 1986

Bits and Pieces in 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The D&H were demolishing the railroad trestle spanning the old canal south of the depot. It had purchased the land along the route of the canal.

The Whitehall Independent
September 26, 1984

A Crossing Guard Speaks - 1925
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A guard gives his view of autoists in a 1925 issue of the Bulletin, at a four track crossing. He answered their excuse for not stopping on signal: "Better busted gates than a busted head;" when that autoist said "That train was a half-mile down the track when I drove up" with "and now she's a half mile down the track the other way;" and "We're hurrying to go to a funeral" with "You sure were, not one funeral but five, counting those three children."

The guard continued, "I've been posted here for eight years. We're pretty busy. First we give them (autoists) the warning bell. Then comes the gong that you can hear three blocks away. Then my partner up in the tower lowers the gates and I step out in the street and wave this stop sign, and I wear this star and blow this copper's whistle.

"Now you'd think all this fuss might make them suspect there might be a train somewheres in the neighborhood. Yet about once or twice a day we stop some driver just in the nick of time then he gets plumb mad because we insist on letting the train go first.

"Now I railroaded for some thirty years before taking this job. Surely I ought to know something about trains, and speed, and such. But there's one thing about these hurry-up drivers that's got me stumped.

"For eight years I've been trying to figure out just why they're always in such a terrible rush. I don't know the answer, and you don't either, and I've just come to the conclusion that they don't know themselves."

The Whitehall Independent
September 26, 1984

A Program for (D&H) Veterans
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

On 22 April 1928 the D&H Veterans Association held its meeting in Wilkes-Barre in Pennsylvania. Part of the entertainment was the motion picture "The Fair of the Iron Horse." The film showed the evolution in transportation as displayed at the Baltimore Centennial in Baltimore in 1927.

The first stage is generally known -the horse drawn car; but the others seem unfamiliar - the sail car propelled by the wind, and a car for which power was furnished by a horse operating a treadmill. More familiar are the locomotives that began to develop in the latter part of the nineteenth century. The huge smokestacks gave way to those hidden from view. The glittering brass that took so much polishing was replaced by conservative nickel plate.

The Whitehall Independent

October 3, 1984

A Retirement 1919-1972

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

How many retiring railroaders had the experience of George W. Long of Fort Edward? He had served 53 years and three months of continuous service.

When he arrived at work on that retirement day, he found his engine No. 42 newly painted in black and white and decorated with flags and bunting. Along the handrail on either side between the boiler head and the cab were cards announcing his retirement with the dates of his service and the number of years. Starting out of Fort Edward his engine passed over 53 torpedoes and all the way up the valley to Lake George he was saluted with a steady resounding blast of mill and factory whistles.

Back in Fort Edward, when he stepped from the cars, he was greeted by trainmaster W. W. Wallace; L. W. Benjamin, assistant trainmaster; chairman of Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers John Tanney; general chairman of Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen P. J. LaGrange; and H. W. Long of Whitehall, a brother who had preceded him in retirement. He was presented with a box of cigars, a bouquet, and a pipe.

Back at home his wife was preparing supper. When she heard the music in the distance, she asked her son what was going on. He said nothing that he knew of. Neither knew of the demonstration planned.

The noise continuing, she said, "There must be something." The son stepped to the door and then returned to say, "They're bringing the old veteran home." "What old veteran?" she inquired. "Why, Dad," the son replied as they started for the door.

Coming down the street was a great procession of people on foot and in automobiles following in the wake of the Boy Scouts' Band. "The whole place was covered with men, women, and children," she recalled as she told of the throng gathered outside their home to shake George W. Long's hand and wish him many years of happy life. Overcome, he was unable to speak, but his expression and tear-clouded eyes told a story that his friends understood.

George W. Long was born in Whitehall 8 June 1854, the son of John Long. His brothers, an uncle, and a cousin were also in the railroad company. His father was employed in the roundhouse at Oneonta. He, himself, was employed at various times in the roundhouse at Castleton, Vermont, Whitehall, Saratoga Springs, Albany and Oneonta. When a boy too young to go on the railroad, he worked in the local sash and blind factory in Whitehall. When about fifteen, he left the factory and 1 April 1912 began his career as a railroad man. He recalled the first yards at Whitehall when they consisted of only two or three tracks. The tracks from Rutland looped around the freight house in order to connect with the main line and permit the turning of trains. The engine house force consisted of a machinist, a blacksmith, and a wiper.

Engineers on the railroad did not train just for that position. Following their work during their careers, one finds that they progressed from one line of work to another, before reaching that enviable position.

The Whitehall Independent

October 10, 1984

Headdress and Tourism

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

When the advent of the automobile is recalled, many think immediately of the headdress of large goggles and a head covering which consisted of a long flowing veil trailing out in the wind. But a veil and goggles on trainmen? Such was the case, however.

George Bruce, on the Rutland and Washington line in his early railroad days on the wood burning locomotives, tells about the practice. Wood stops were provided at Shushan, Salem, and Rupert, and other Points. The wood train constantly replenished the supply of wood at these sheds. As a boy he recalled skipping school to "throw wood" for a ride on the train.

Later "brick coal", coal cemented together with tar and pressed into bricks, was used. The tar affected the skin and eyes of the crew, causing a painful burning, and men wore goggles and veils to protect hair faces and necks. When soft and anthracite coal were put into use, these ace coverings were discarded. George remembers veil-wearing did not appeal to him and he went from firing back to braking to avoid them.

Washington County at one time produced potatoes. Some Whitehall men made and lost fortunes in their transportation. In early days as many as 75 cars of potatoes were moved out of Washington County in the height of the season. This was at the time when it was necessary for the way freight crew to double back between Castleton and Poultney to get the cars they couldn't take over the hill on the first trip. George recalled the many motor cars that ran into the sides of locomotives even when there was a clear stretch of track visible.

Tourism and Railroading? The two were combined in telegrapher Lafayette Perry when he was stationed at Putnam in 1881. (Why was he named Lafayette?) He also served at Addison Junction, the junction at present Ticonderoga (Montcalm Landing) and the connection with the Central Vermont. In 1889 he opened the station at Ticonderoga and worked there until 1906 when he was transferred to Saratoga Springs.

During his later connection with the traffic department he used his historical interest to promote tourism in the passenger traffic. He helped popularize the area of Lake George and Lake Champlain through the booklet "A Summer Paradise" published by the traffic department. These annual booklets contained descriptions along the lines with pictures of the hotels and vacation resorts. These booklets are now collectors' items, even if the covers are torn off. The Forty Year Group, of which Mr. Perry was a member, made annual pilgrimages to historic places along the routes. It was natural that after retirement he became associated with H. P. Pell in restoration at Fort Ticonderoga.

In the department of "Clicks on the Rails" is an error in words. A train delay was written up for ten minutes looking for skunks. It seems the actual message read "Look out for sun-kinks" but the operator got it as "Look out for skunks".

The Whitehall Independent

October 17, 1984

Adolphus Case

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Adolphus Case of Whitehall had experience in two of the transportation entities that made up the village's importance for being. He came here at six years of age in 1857 when boat building was a thriving industry and was hired to drive a team of horses on the towpath at an early age.

Life on a canal boat was quite hard for a young boy. The four horses that pulled a boat through the canal were kept on board, a bridge being used to walk them off and on the boat. The two horse team was changed every six hours. Adolphus worked six hours on and six hours off in every twenty-four hours and received twenty-five cents a day for his labor.

The cargo boats of grain, pulp wood, or lumber were towed from Canada through Lake Champlain to Whitehall by steam tug. They were taken on to Troy by horse power and then picked up by another steam tug to go down the Hudson to New York City. The trip lasted about two weeks one way. Twice during his twenty years on the canal he made a trip to Buffalo.

In 1881, Mr. Case transferred work to become a carpenter in the Bridge and Building Department of the Delaware and Hudson Company. At that time the wooden trestle across South Bay was strengthened. Afterwards he worked on repairs and construction of bridges, buildings, water tanks, and other structures in the Saratoga and Champlain divisions. He was with the gang that relined the Whitehall tunnel and he worked with the gang that installed and replaced the railroad turntables.

While installing a turntable at Rouses Point, Adolphus became a cook of renown. It wasn't until about 1907 that a railway boarding car was established. Before that the bridge gang had boarded out in the vicinity. The bridge and building train consisted of three cars; one for small tools; one for wood, coal and heavy tools; and the third car with a sleeping compartment for eight and a kitchen.

In this section Mr. Case reigned as cook. At first he divided the cost of the food, which he purchased and prepared, by the number of servings and assessed each man. He made a reputation for his doughnuts and pea soup. Even the dining car chefs were on hand when it was known that Mr. Case had a steaming kettle of soup in his kitchen.

Mr. Case lived on Third Avenue. There were three children: Bernard, Mrs. Orving Wilt, and Mrs. A. F. Lamphron.

"Clicks from the Wheels" is a potpourri of incidents on railroads everywhere. One tells of the mother sparrow who built her nest on a passenger coach. She rode two 44-mile round trips daily while laying her eggs, hatching them, and rearing the young. Another tells of a hen shipped from Oklahoma to Texas. The tag was illegible and she sat patiently on fifteen eggs until her destination was learned. The eggs turned out to be hard-boiled, a trick played on her to keep her maternally minded while in transit.

The Whitehall Independent

October 24, 1984

Would You Believe It?

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A woman reported to a conductor that her baby had knocked her purse out of the window. It contained her money and tickets. A wire sent a section gang in search of the bag and when it was found, the agent raced ahead on a car, and overtook the train where it had been held up at a terminal. The engineer made up the time.

A mother's purse with her baby's formula in it was lost on the Pullman. She placed a call to the Pullman office. The purse had been turned in. A clerk located the formula and read it over the phone to the mother who was able to serve lunch on time.

A jack rabbit crashed through a cab window of a locomotive. It seemed the rabbit had been taken aloft by a hawk. It managed to wriggle out from the talons and fell just as the train reached the spot.

A hen who fed on grain from loaded box cars entered the station waiting room every day and laid an egg. She did not bite the hand that fed her.

"Grandma Bailey", aged 104, died 5 August 1936. She was the last living person who had ridden on the first passenger train which, pulled by the DeWitt Clinton, and ran from Albany to Schenectady in 1831.

A waybill in Chicago had the extraordinary length of thirteen feet listing two carloads of assorted groceries from a mail order house that had opened a store.

A special agent was inspecting a furniture car during the 1931 World Series. He found a train rider assembling a radio set so that "he and his buddies" could get the latest sports news.

Two box cars loaded to the roof with 600 cases of eggs were derailed and thrown over an embankment. One landed on its side, the other on its top. The cars were hoisted to the track and delivered to their destination. Great was the surprise when the railroad's claim department received a bill for only \$4.15.

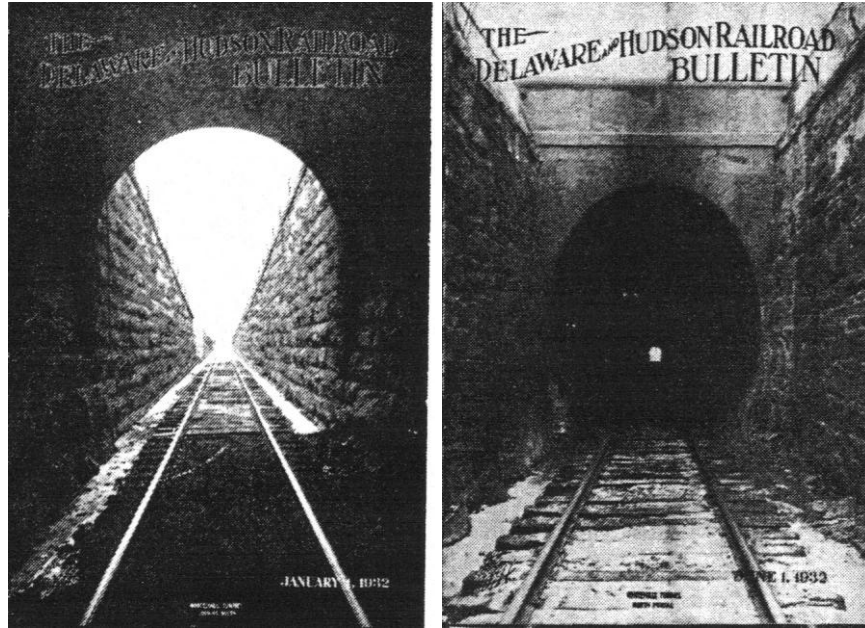
An engineer claimed, "It takes a lot of elbow grease to blow my locomotive whistle on a trip of 103 miles." He estimated it took a 10 lb. pull on the cord and that for the 376 times the whistle had to be pulled there was a total of 3,760 pounds of cord pulling.

A swarm of bees stole a ride on an express train. At each stop the bees came out of their hiding place to exercise their wings. When the train started, they swarmed back to the train. This was repeated at each stop from Alabama to Prince Edward Island.

A young boy was making his first trip on a drag of 75 cars. The train stopped for a hot box but remained still for a long time. Finally the engineer asked the apprentice if he could see the conductor at the rear of the train giving a high. The reply was, "There is some dumb fool down there waving at me. He thinks he knows me but he don't."

**The Whitehall Independent
October 31, 1984**

**The Tunnel
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**



The covers of the Delaware & Hudson Bulletin have winter and summer woodland and waterway scenes along the routes of the D & H. Occasionally other topics were featured. In 1932, 1 January issue featured the Whitehall tunnel looking south and the 1 June issue featured the North Portal.

The January issue had no explanation about the structure but the June issue explained the plan of eliminating the tunnel in connection with the grade crossings at Boardman, Main or Canal, and Bellamy Streets.

A backward glance tells that the Rensselaer and Saratoga Railroad reached Whitehall in 1848. By 1850 a passenger station had been erected at the southern end of the village and a tunnel under the then Church Street, beginning where Saunders Street is now. The tracks were extended north through the middle of what is now Broadway. In 1851 the Lake Station was built near the Elbow. This existed until 1873 when it was moved to Clemons and set up about 250 feet south of the later station on the lake side. It was moved in 1903 to this later site and burned in 1909. This Lake Station was the transshipment point for passengers and freight with the lake steamers and canal boats. Whitehall has long been concerned with tourism.

This arrangement lasted until 1875 with the trains passing from the southern station through the middle of old Canal Street into the tunnel, depositing coal dust in the attics of the buildings and across the faces of them, for the earlier engines burned soft coal. There are memories from citizens of stalled freight trains on the line with its three

flag shanties at Boardman, Main, and Bellamy Streets; of climbing over the cars; even of sliding under a car in the wintertime down Saunders Street.

During 1873 and 1874 the railroad business had increased so much that the line was continued from Lake Station north to connect with the line that went on to Montreal via the New York and Canada Railroad. On 16 November 1875 a special train carried the "Opening Excursion" to commemorate the event. For 57 more years the trains went through the old tunnel and the line became part of the Delaware & Hudson System, but by-passed the Lake Station.

The elimination project took form in October 1929 when it was placed on the 1930 program for grade elimination. The Public Service Commission directed the D & H Railroad Corporation to prepare plans and estimates. Bids were taken 7 October 1931 and the contract awarded 7 November 1931. The work was 32 percent completed by 10 April 1932 in time for the June write-up in the Bulletin.

The old tunnel had to be removed to allow an open cut, walled on both sides and wide enough for a double track line. Saunders and Division Streets were carried over by a short concrete slab top bridge for 235 feet, replacing the 700 foot tunnel. Clinton Avenue was carried over the new tracks by an overhead plate-girder type structure. Bellamy Street was closed between the right-of-way lines.

The Whitehall Independent November 7, 1984

Back in Whitehall History Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Edward Hurtubis, a crossing watchman at Whitehall, loaned to the Bulletin a photograph of the old locomotive No. 163. An item entitled "Back in Whitehall History" described the scene. The crew and other employees were gathered around the engine which was in the south end of the yard, near where the yard office stood in 1894. The date of this Bulletin was 1 March 1927.

The men in the picture from the left were John Holland, John Morris, A. T. Hurtubis, George Terry, W.J. Williams, Fred Wells, and Willis LaTour. In the background were William and Martin Dunnigan, the latter went on to be a railroader in later life. In 1927 John Holland was a yard conductor in the north end of the Whitehall yard; George Terry was yardmaster for the Boston and Maine at Greenfield, Massachusetts; W. J. Williams was the general yardmaster at Whitehall; Fred Wells was a trainman; John Morris, A.T. Hurtubis, and William LaTour were deceased.

The Whitehall Independent
December 26, 1984

“Who Makes Up The Railroad”

By L. W. Bohn

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The train dispatcher spends his days,
When traffic's smooth or in a haze,
Arranging points for trains to meet,
And jotting figures on a sheet. He says,
"It's Me; I am the brains
That keeps a-moving all these trains.
I keep them going night and day
Upon the busy right of way.
Without my will they cannot start;
I play a most important part.
And so, as anyone can see,
The railroad most depends on Me."
Said the engineer while oiling round,
"The dispatcher's sure a busy hound.
But it's Me who sits, eyes straight ahead
A-watching signals green and red.
I am the guy," said the engineer,
"Whose minds alert and eye is clear,
Who watches out for precious lives
Of children, sweethearts, husbands, wives.
I drive ahead through snow and storm
In winter cold or summer warm.
I rather guess you'll all agree
The railroad most depends on Me."
The fireman said to the engineer,
"You may be right, but looky here,
Don't you forget, if you please, by heck
The boy down on the rollin' deck;
The boy who bends his weary back
As she's a-reelin' down the track;
The boy who keeps her hot and poppin'
Without restin, without stoppin.
I'll tell the world, and it's no dream,
I am the boy who makes the steam.
You can't deny it, no siree.
The railroad most depends on Me."
The conductor smiled. "The engineer
Is the works," said he, "or pretty near.

The fireman on the rolling deck,
 The dispatcher, too, I guess, by heck.
 But trains all stop and stop dead still,
 And never move a wheel until I give the signal with my hand,
 'Cause I'm the boss, you understand?
 And it's Me, the man in navy blue,
 Who gathers up the revenue.
 I'm captain of the ship?" said he.
 "The railroad most depends on Me!"
 The section boss, a'standing by
 Said, with a twinkle in his eye,
 "Let credit fall, where credit's due,
 I disagree with all of you!
 Now listen here," he said with pride,
 "You're all important, 'Taint denied,
 But who works out, in rain or shine,
 A-keepin' up the old main line?
 Who puts in ties and raises joints,
 Tends the switches and lines the points?
 You're all important, I'll agree,
 But the railroad most depends on Me!"
 The superintendent, happening by
 Said, with a keen appraising eye,
 "Each one is wrong, yet each is right.
 You keep it going day and night,
 But don't forget to bear in mind,
 The other men, who stand behind.
 The eager young, the gray and hoary,
 Deny them not their bit of glory!
 Each has his daily task to do,
 And, less he does it well and true,
 The road will suffer, I'll confess;
 Co-operation spells success!"

The Whitehall Times
December 6, 1973

Order of Railway Conductors 1904 - 1926
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Various forms, papers and reports have been added to Skenesborough Museum Library by Carol Senecal. These have to do with the organization of the Order of Railway Conductors and railroads.

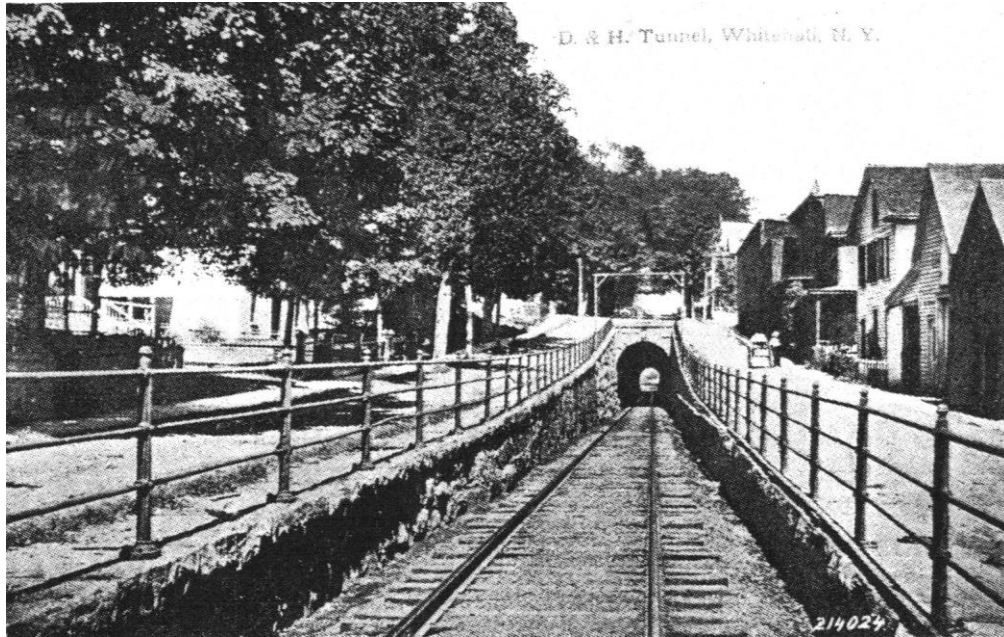
Among the collection are a set of maps of the railroad system throughout the United States in 1905, three copies of Proceedings of the Grand Division of the Order of Railway Conductors, rules and rates of pay in train and yard service on the principal railroads in 1900, and accident bulletins of 1904 to 1907. Pertaining especially to Whitehall is a minute book which lists the attendance of members from 1904 to 1926 in the Order of Railroad Conductors of America, and cards indicating members of its Mutual Benefit department. Interesting is the card of songs that evidently was standard for the organization. It contains verses for organization, installation, welcome, opening and closing of meetings, and a funeral dirge.

These are the members listed for 1904 to 1926:

J. M. Atwood, H. A. Adams, F. C. Austin, Geo. Busseno, G. W. Bell, H. P. Brown, M. Bracey, L. W. Benjamin. O. S. Benjamin.
Albert Bancroft, William Bender, M. D. Baker, Fred Carswell, James Collins, J. D. Beattie.
R. M. Carson, M. A. Church, Dan J. Cameron, Chas. W. Compton, D. Corbett, F. N. Donnelly, J. H. Donnelly, Chas. Dennison, C. F. Eusprey, J. Gully, James Grady, Fred Gibbs. Geo. A. Hale, J. Hogan, John Hammon.
T. J. Hollaron, A. Hogal, C. Harrigan, Dan Humphrey, M. E. Hart, Warren Herron, E. A. Hauerwas, I. E. Hughes, T. E. Huestis, M. D. Ikenhoffer, Milo Johnson, William M. Jones. J. Keenan, Truman H. Kilburn, B. D. Lindly.
E. G. Lalor, W. H. McCormick, John Miles, R. J. McQuillan, J. McKinney, J. M. McCullough, T. J. Mc Imorey, Michael Norton, J. H. O'Brien, G. C. Paine, H. C. Perkins, M. E. Parris, C. O. Rounds, M. H. Rounds, C. F. Redding.
J. C. Royal, J. E. Rhoads, Geo. F. Scott, Ezra Tario, John Tario, W. J. Toulman, W. C. Tedford, Benjamin Van Acker, P. J. Whellon, H. W. Wilkinson, H. F. Wade, L. R. Wheeler, J. A. White Ira E. Wilson, J. M. Weed.

The Whitehall Independent
August 12, 1987

The Elimination of the R/R Crossing
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



Whitehall has had two reorganizations in structure in this century. Newcomers to the village and the younger generation don't recognize the name Church Street and do not know that at one time Broadway was Canal and later Main Street.

This change began 56 years ago when the Delaware and Hudson started its local grade crossing elimination. This project removed the railroad tracks from the center of now Broadway and created a dead end of present Main Street near the Excelsior Building. Church Street disappeared with the demolition of houses on both its sides below Saunders and Division Streets; the divided (Church) street before the entrance to the tunnel at the south end of Main Street, in back of the American Legion building was abolished.

Hecker-Moon Construction Company began the work outlined in its contract 20 November 1931 under the direction of general superintendent Walter Kipf. It was expected to take two or three years for its completion. By September 1932 the work was much advanced. The working conditions had been excellent with a long period of favorable weather. Some of the men had worked 115 days without losing time because of rain, which had come only in the night.

The new railroad tracks to the east had been laid north to a point opposite Main and Church streets by the Excelsior Building. Trains would be running over the relocated tracks within the week. The boulevard would be built parallel to the old canal bed and would be completed by 1 December and the highway by the next spring when the large fill had settled. The boulevard as it was first called became what is Skenesborough Drive

much later and buildings have been constructed on the old canal bed. The new tracks ran behind the buildings on Broadway; no longer was the soot from coal burning engines covering the floors of the attics along Broadway.

The other realignment of the village occurred in the early part of the century when the Atlantic and Pacific construction company changed the route of the old canal with its three locks into the new canal into Wood Creek and built one lock, Lock 12. It is hard now to envision the triangular block of business and public buildings that were demolished by the State project. This block of buildings stood between the present canal and North Main Street. All these were demolished to facilitate the use of the machines in constructing the enlarged canal.

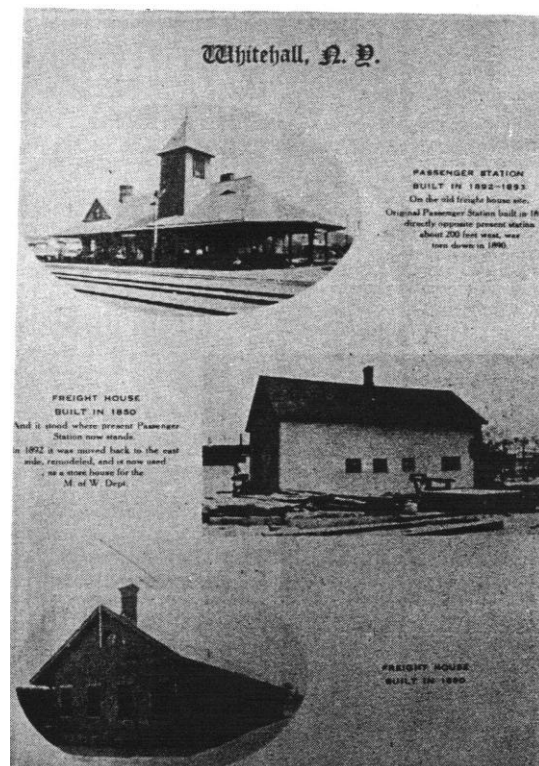
Records of Whitehall show its growth from the lumber and shipbuilding goods yards of Put's Rock and the Elbow south along Main Street and Broadway and are now developing in the area of the southern part of the village, not the destruction of whole areas but with a sense of preservation and attractiveness.

The Whitehall Times

June 15, 1972

Station and Freight House

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



The press of the Delaware and Hudson put out June 1, 1928 a book containing the station and freight house pictures along the line with some information about each

village. The accompanying pictures show those included of Whitehall with the information about each.

A bit of the thrill of the “olden days” came to Whitehall as citizens gathered at the station Friday to see the Amtrak train.

The occasion was nostalgic to many. Those who used to ride the train recalled walking to the station, suitcase in hand, buying a ticket from Edward Hand, and then waiting for the train.

Since there was always a secret fear of seeing the train go down the track without bring aboard, one was always early. The waiting was never boring. Who doesn’t like to watch others and wonder what prompts their actions as they sit patiently or pace fretfully; or listen to the retired railroaders who were on hand to watch the train come in?

At last there is a stir. The trainmen have begun to go to their stations. At night the lanterns make bright arcs as the men walk along. There is the sound of the whistle, the glow of the headlight, and the train arrives with a sort of hissing. The Whitehall passengers on board are seen already standing, eager to alight. They stream off, greeting their welcomers or passing swiftly about their business.

The bustle of boarding is accomplished by stepping high to climb the train steps, reaching for the suitcase as the conductor kindly swings it up, anxiously looking for a window seat, and then settling back for the ride. Many recall the evening's entertainment before 1918 as a group waited for old 710 to come in, bringing the evening mail which was transferred to a wagon to be carried to the post office. After the train pulled out there was the leisurely walk to the post office to collect the last mail of the day.

Many are the stories of the days before 1933 when the tracks ran down the middle of Canal or Main Street then. And what did one do when a freight train blocked the path? Why, climb over it, of course, and risk the danger of being thrown if it suddenly jolted into action. One could not be late to school! In winter the ruts along the tracks were deep and hard to get auto wheels out of. What excitement at school the day three teachers left their car just as the train hooked onto the bumper and slowly lifted the car into the air.

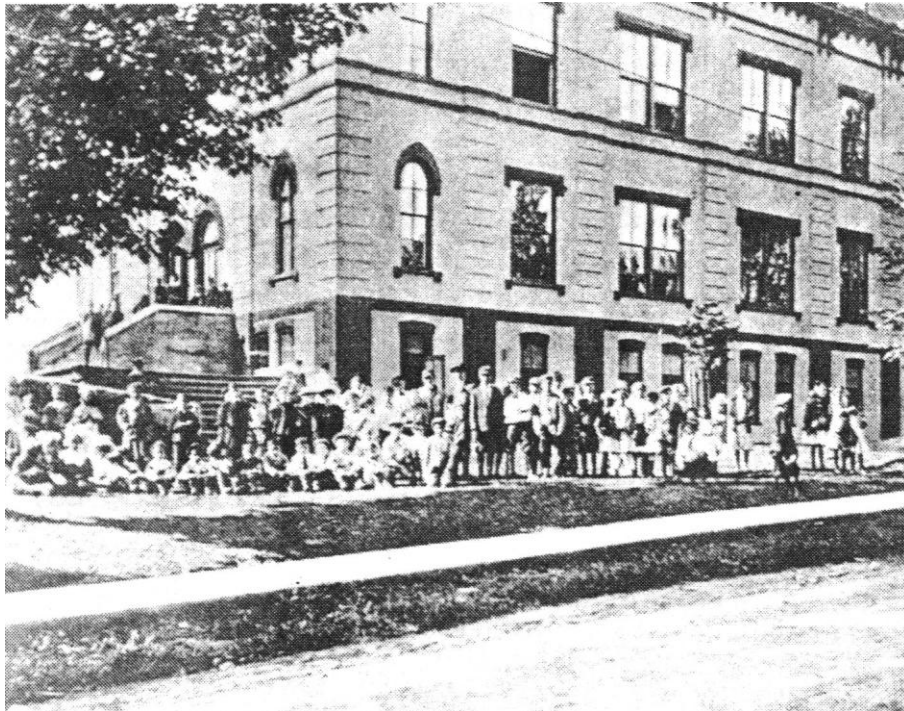
Reminiscences are happy ones but there is still the thrill of boarding a train for a trip. Just listen to the Whitehall Times reporter and the G & M photographer who rode the Amtrak train to Montreal. They missed the Jolting, the smoke and the cinders, the stopping at each little station but they will always recall this event as "old, timers" still remember the early train days.

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Schools

The Whitehall Independent
April 13, 1883

Schools - 1883
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



This is a letter concerning the Union School erected on Pierce's Knoll in 1868-1869. This was located at the corner of South Bay (School) and West Streets. Formally it was Union School No. 11, later to be known as Central School.

"Whitehall February 19, 1883

Editor of the Times: The President of the Board of Education and the teachers of the public schools have invited those who are interested in schools and education to visit the schools and those who accept are well rewarded. At the Union School building beginning at the foundation, Miss Carrie Hendricks and Miss Alice Steere welcome the visitor who wishes to see how the little ones begin to learn lessons. He must be five minutes more than punctual if he would see the school open. That is he must be five minutes earlier than railroad or post office or "Schuylerville Whistle" time. The clean and cheerful children that fill the benches look the welcome which the teachers express in words and actions. The two primary schools unite in the opening exercises. Miss Hendricks reads a psalm. All bow their heads and repeat the Lord's Prayer, after which

they sing a hymn. This is real music; children's happy voices in concert give music that is the envy of opera managers. The two separate for work. The pupils of the first class spell the words in common use, such as the numerals from one to thirty, write on their slates a few numerals in Roman character, add, subtract, multiply, with rapidity.

Without good teachers good education is not to be expected. Books free of cost, fine furniture, elegant rooms cannot do the work of pupil and teacher. Both do their work well in this school. Rapidity of mental exercise is pushed quite far enough. Correctness is another point that is aimed at. Habits formed in this school and perhaps knowledge gained here will be the chief capital for life for many of the pupils. How important is it then that the primary schools be good.

To tell all that one sees and hears of interest in a single school would require space and the reader's patience. Perhaps at another time a description of the higher department may be found. Mr. Miller, Mrs. Juliand and several other good teachers may be in order. But people should go and see for themselves.

Philo"

The Whitehall Times
July 1, 1976

1st Local School District Existed in 1814
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



OLD CENTRAL SCHOOL. This building was erected on Pierce's Knoll in 1868. This view is of rear of building facing Lafayette street.

In the second decade of the 19th century formal education became a more important subject to the town of Whitehall. Classes went from the homes of private

tutors, like William Higbee pre-1800 and the Dame schools, like Mrs. Dibble's of Williams Street, to buildings erected for the purpose.

A first school in existence in 1814 stood on a site west of Wood Creek in the vicinity of Lock 12. More schooling was desired which resulted in the construction of the first academy in the village at the corner of Center Street and Academy (Division) Street. It was a two-story building with a long row of windows on each story.

A little cupola in the center of the roof had a bell which was transferred to the school at the corner of Lamb and Blount streets when the academy burned in 1850. This first academy was used for a day school and for Sabbath School. Church services of several denominations were held in the building before they had buildings of their own.

Citizens in the rural areas took advantage of an early state law and constructed in various sections of the town buildings that became known as district schools. The trustees' book of the Rathbun district (1819) gives a complete description of such a schoolhouse and its operation over the years.

The districts became known by the names of families in the area or by geographical description: Brown Pond in Holcombville. Hatch Hill, Brick Church, Hollister, Chapman, Carlton, Rathbone, Harlow, Sciota, Jackson or Gray's Corners, Kinner, Butler and in the village, Bell School, Wheeler Avenue, West Street, and one between Lafayette and Latour streets. Most of these or their successors for some burned and were rebuilt, have been remodeled into homes.

Secondary education was secured in mid-century by academies that furnished surrounding areas with an equivalent to a high school and early college instruction. Whitehall Academy was established in 1848 for such a purpose. The famous orator Joseph Cook came from Ticonderoga by boat to secure his education in it. This academy was on Williams Street, north of the Long Row. The curriculum provided basis subjects plus music and art. It had an excellent library and laboratory which were transferred later to the new high school. The academy was supported by tuition and after 20 years financial difficulties were encountered and the school was closed in 1865.

Townspeople were unhappy without advanced education for their children and the Union Free School came into existence in 1866 when three districts in the village were united — Bell, Wheeler and West. On Aug. 27, 1866, voters met in Anderson Hall and decided to form this new district. It contained School No. 1 in the Episcopal Church (site of Longtin's service station); No. 2 Bell School (Lamb and Blount); No. 3 School 14 (Wheeler Avenue); No. 4 School 17 on West Street (Beckwith, now).

School population soon forced larger accommodations. In 1868 a site was chosen on Pierce's Knoll, corner of West and South Bay (School) streets, extending to Lafayette Street. Building started immediately and school opened with the winter term in January, 1869. Other schools became necessary. In 1875 a special boys' school was held in rooms in the Vaughn Hotel (Chase's north store). In January, 1876, Adams Street School was opened for the younger pupils in that part of the village and around, this time the Elbow school.

In 1898 further increase in school population brought a new grade school on Williams Street. An eight-room building was constructed on the site of the old tannery and blacksmith shop and opened in 1899. At this time the Bell and Wheeler Avenue schools were closed.

In 1884 Whitehall's Convent School was opened by the parish of Our Lady of Angels. In the building of Mrs. John Breyette's home was a graded school with emphasis on religious instruction. It had a beautifully laid out lawn with a statue of St. Joseph at the center. The convent was in front on Canal Street (Broadway), demolished for the Grand Union. Financial difficulties caused the school to be discontinued, people of the church felt that the public schools gave adequate education to the children.

By 1912 a need for another suitable building was evident. After a long and heated period, in 1914 the construction was made. The one building was directly in front of the middle section of the old one, three stories height, the third story in the middle section only. The old building was remodeled with the third floor devoted to the auditorium.

During 1924 addition work was performed on the structure. The old part in the back was replaced and gymnasium was added to the west side. This was done while school was in session pupils of that time tell of the ringing of hammers, while others tell of being put in other buildings for the duration.

Consolidation with the Union Free School close many of the district schools as the pupils were bussed the high school building. 1958 under the state plans centralizing many of the smaller schools for better educational opportunities; Whitehall Central School district came into existence. Schools from Dresden and Clemons were added with the remaining district school. Shortly space was again at a premium and the process of obtaining a new building was painfully endured. The new Whitehall Junior-Senior High School on Buckley road was opened in 1963. The grades were taught in the Central building in the village until the new elementary building was opened in 1968. With the construction of these buildings Williams Street, Adams Street and Elbow schools became vacant. The first two have been usefully remodeled into needed apartment buildings, a credit to historic preservation.

Whitehall has been mindful of good education for its children. This history of its external provision is just a small part of the many advantages provided for its youth, or volumes could be written on the dedicated faculty over the years, the changes in curriculum for the better and in the spirit of the times. Much can be described of the efforts of the boards of education members, and finally the product desired, the successful men and women who have gone out to represent Whitehall.



PRINCIPALS OF SCHOOL

E. Butler — 1879-1882
A. B. Miller — 1884-88
Miss Lawrence — 1889
E. M. Walradt — 1890-91
Mary M. Humphrey — 1892-1903
Harriet L. Joslin — 1904-07
Georee S. Ellis. Act. — 1908
Sue L. Hincks — 1909-10
Clara F. Paul — 1911
Wayland Bailey — 1912-14
R.H. Spicer — 1915-17
A. J. Laidlaw, Act. — 1918-19
Neva D. Fagan — 1920-22
R. W. Chatter — 1923
Carlyle B. Newcomb — 1924-25
Lester C. Shuknect — 1926
Bernard P. Murphy — 1927-54
Ambrose Gilligan — 1955-67
Eugene P. Smith — 1967-76

**

Francis J. Fressie – 1976-77
Jack A. Tesmer – 1977-79
Allen Rydinsky – 1979-81
Clinton Taft – 1982-85
Niel Muscatiello – 1985-1993
James Allegretto – 1993-94
Darlene Hill – 1994-97
Nancy Allegretto – 1997-99
Beecher Baker – 1999-2003
Kem Zappata – 2003-04
Kelly McHugh – 2004-to present

School Superintendents

Mrs. J. M. Dewey — Jan. 1869
A. G. Harrington — 1869-70
J. K. Hull — 1870 [a few weeks]
C. W. Bardeen — 1870-73
E. P. Jackson — 1873 [Oct.]
Prof. Butler — 1873-82
Emmet Belknap — 1888-89
John H. Kelley — 1890-91
W. W. Howe — 1891-1908
George S. Ellis — 1908-11
Willard Andrews — 1911-15

H. H. Lamberton — 1915-17
 Arthur J. Laidlaw — 1917-23
 Page E. Cole — 1924-54
 Bernard P. Murphy — 1954-60
 Walter Schumacher — 1960-67
 Bernard O'Neill — 1967-68
 Eugene P. Smith [acting — 1968
 Donald Putterman — 1968-72
 Roger Thomas — 1972-73
 Edward G. McHale, Jr. — 1973-79

**

Robert V. McGinley – 1979-81
Frank Genovese – 1991-86
James F. Watson – 1986-to present

WHITEHALL VILLAGE OFFICIALS

PRESIDENTS

1861-67 A. H. Hall
 1868 W. J. Smith
 1869 A. Martin
 1870-72 D. G. Percival
 1873 James Doren
 1874 W. F. Bascom
 1875 N. G. Baker
 1876-77 E. A. Martin
 1878-81 Martin Sawyer
 1882 Wm. G. Stuffelbean
 1883 Elisha A. Martin
 1884 Roland E. Bascom
 1885 W. G. C. Wood
 1886 James Spencer
 1887 Warren F. Bascom
 1888-1889 James Doren
 1890-1894 Oscar F. Davis
 1895 Edward P. Newton
 1896-97 E. F. Horton
 1898-1899 Horace A. Stevens
 1900 Nathan E. Foote
 1901 E. P. Newcomb
 1902 T. A. Paterson
 1903 J. T. Edmonds
 1904-05 D. C. Smith
 1906 Warren T. Bascom

1907 Edgar Lowenstein
1908-90 T. A. Paterson
1910-11 A. E. Meyer
1912-13 C. E. Holden
1914-15 E. T. Horton
1916-17 J. J. Manville
1918-20 Theodose Belanger
1921-22 James J. Sullivan
1923-24 Edward F. Roche
1925-26 Alan J. Woodard

MAYORS

1927-32 Alan J. Woodard
1933-34 Harold A. Scott
1935-46 Jerome E. Campbell
1947-52 Sherman Freeman
1953-54 Dennis O'Brien
1955-67 Edward L. McLaughlin
1967-71 Horace H. Scott
1971-75 John Day
1975-83 Francis Affinito

**

1983-89 *Lawrence J. Varney*
1989-96 *Peter J. Telisky*
1996-97 *Brian G. Brooks (Acting Mayor)*
1997-2007 *Patricia A Norton*

TOWN SUPERVISORS:

1778, Levi Stockwell; 1778, Daniel Brundage; 1780, Levi Stockwell; 1781, not recorded; 1782-84, Silas Childs; 1784, James Burroughs; 1785, not recorded; 1786, Daniel Earle; 1786, Daniel Adams; 1787, Jeremiah Burrough; 1788-91, Cornelius Jones; 1792, Thomas Lyon; 1793, Daniel Earle; 1794-97, Jeremiah Burrough; 1798-99, Nathaniel Earle.

1800-15, Daniel Earle; 1816-20, Melancton Wheeler; 1821-33, Daniel Earle; 1834-40, George Barney; 1841-43, E. A. Martin; 1844, Dennis Jones; 1845, John H. Boud; 1846-47, P. C. Hitchcock; 1848-49, John H. Boud; 1850, Dan S. Wright; 1851-52, Oliver Bascom; 1853-54, Olif Abell; 1855-56, Alwyn Martin; 1857, Randolph C. Johnson; 1858-59, Julio T. Buel; 1860-61, Taylor Manville; 1862-63, Samuel Benjamin; 1864-65, Oliver Bascom; 1866, A. H. Tanner; 1867-69, Elisha A. Martin; 1870-71, George Brett; 1872, T. S. Cook; 1873-74, George Brett; 1875-77, Warren F. Bascom; 1878-80, S. C. Bull; 1881, Augustus P. Cooke; 1882-83, James Spencer; 1884-85, Thomas A. Lillie; 1886-88, A. J. Long; 1889-93, Rufus R. Davis; 1894-95, Charles J. Barker; 1899-1903, Evander M. Finch.

1904-05, Phineas F. Benjamin; 1906-11, William B. Inglee; 1912-15, Loren D. Prouty; 1916-21, Herbert A. Bartholomew; 1922-23, John M. Butler; 1924-29, W. Earl Huestis; 1930-37, Edward D. Adams; 1938-41, Isaac R. Wood; 1942-43, Sherman W. Freeman; 1944-47, Harold A. Scott; 1948-51, Heman Carlton; 1952-63, Jerome E. Campbell; 1964-70, Frank Martucci; 1971, Harold Pray; 1972-79, Horace A. Scott.

**

1980-89, *Robert J. Rozell*; 1990-4/6/95, *Douglas G. Rocque*; 5/4/95-1996, *James F. Aiken*; 1996-2001, *Peter Telisky*; 2001-07, *Vernon C. Scribner*.

***Names that appear in italics represent an up date to March 10, 2008. kb*



PROF. W. W. HOWE

W.W.H.

Prof. Howe, School Superintendent

A most popular superintendent of schools in Whitehall was Wilber W. Howe. He served the longest term of the early superintendents in the new Union Free School District No. 11.

When Prof. Howe came to Whitehall in 1891, he had already received fame in the education world. He was principal of the graded schools in Cleveland, New York and North Bennington, Vt., and taught there the Prang system of drawing and Holt's system of vocal music. From these he became state instructor of drawing in the county institutes of New York and Vermont.

Mr. Howe started teaching at the age of 17. Versatile in his field, he was well fitted to take charge of Whitehall's five large buildings and 21 teachers. He soon placed the school in the front rank of graded schools in New York.

Believing that intelligent reading is the basis of good education, he developed a phonic method of teaching that subject which was developed into a textbook copyrighted in 1901. Mr. Howe became a representative of the publishing company to sell the book and receive a large salary and royalties. He revised the curriculum of the Whitehall schools and established a fixed course of study. The school under his direction produced fine exhibits in pictorial and mechanical drawing and construction.

The account of the 1904 high school graduation said of Mr. Howe: ... A capable and thorough principal . . . who has distinguished himself in being thoroughly capable as an instructor, as a master and as a disciplinarian, backed by a most efficient faculty the success has been the highest . . .

With his varied interests, Mr. Howe soon organized the Military Band for which the 1892 band stand was erected on the east bank of the canal. He was an active member of the fire department and a leader in his church choir. He lived on West Street in the Williamson house.

The Whitehall Times **September 7, 1978**

Teachers in Whitehall – Start 1814 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Since at least 1814 Whitehall has had schools through 17 districts organized around 1815, two academies, one in 1820's, and the other in 1848, the Union Free School in 1866, and the Whitehall Central School in 1958.

Can you remember all of your school teachers? District school and one-room grade attendants can remember more than can the ones who had departmentalized grades when there was a teacher for each subject

Isaac Danks was one of Whitehall's earliest teachers, according to Clarence Holden's research. He was said to have had a college education and was a perfect speller. He was, according to the town clerk list, town clerk in 1786, but he left Whitehall in 1802.

In the first academy on Division Street were Hull Blakeslee, who Christopher Johnson in 1878 said was the best remembered teacher, and Alexander P. Fonda. Cory's Gazetteer of 1850 lists for the Whitehall Academy on Williams Street: Principal Werden Reynolds, Preceptress Mary J. Mills, and music and drawing instructor Harriet Wood.

During the life of the Whitehall Academy, 1848-65, these principals followed: Prof. Pangmon, Prof. Ballard, Prof. Floyd, Prof. Packard and finally Prof. Rev. Horace Finch. Miss Haight was preceptress under Prof. Packard. Mrs. Dewey was a teacher there in 1865.

From 1866 to the time of the new school building was opened in 1869, school was held in four different locations with these teachers: Mrs. Julia M. Dewey with Miss Fullerton; Miss Barker with Miss Berry; Miss M.D. Broughton with Miss Laura Dennis, and Miss McAllister.

When the new school was opened in January, 1869, the principal was Mrs. Dewey, with teachers Frank Griswold, McAllister, M. A. Lortie, Medora A. Frederick, Emma F. Blanchard, Laura Dennis, Sarah E. Payne, Jennie M. Brown, Nellie Greenough, Helen Mary Miller, and Nettie Chapman. A special teacher was Monsieur Gouthreau, for French. L. R. Bartholomew had an un-graded school for boys.

In the district school in the Bartholomew neighborhood, north of old District 5, the early teachers were Deacon William Wright and Major Nathaniel Wood. The Wright family was noted for its preachers, teachers and doctors.

The Whitehall Times
March 15, 1978

1814
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

As I have remarked on several occasions historical information appears in odd places. This time it is the bell in the Bell School House and a short description of Whitehall's first academy.

On 16 July 1876 Rev. John Lowrey of the Presbyterian Church chose to give an historical discourse on the development of the pastorate which he was serving. This was printed in full in *The Whitehall Times*.

The first Academy in Whitehall stood on the corner of Division and Center streets where later the residence of Nathan T. Jilison stood. Johnson's "History of Washington County" states that it was built soon after 1814 and that two of its teachers were Hugh Blakeslee and Alexander P. Fonda. According to Rev. Lowrey, "it was a two-story building with a long row of windows in each story and a little cupola, with a bell in it, in the center of the roof. The lower story was used for a day schoolroom; the upper story was for Sabbath School and for preaching services in the stormy weather."

Church and education uses of the same building were not so sharply divided then as now, for the Presbyterians in 1822 used the school house to hold a meeting for the purpose of calling a pastor. Before the first Episcopal Church building was erected at the corner of Division (sometimes called Academy) Street and Church (Broadway) Street In 1836, this congregation used the school for its religious gatherings and also between the time they left this building and erected their second edifice on the site of Longtin's filling station (*S/W corner of Saunders Street and Broadway*).

Rev. Lowrey goes on to say "The bell now used (1876) in the Bell School House is the bell that was in the school house fifty years ago."

Perhaps the answers to the questions, what happened to the bell?, and when was the Bell school built? and when was the Academy destroyed? will be answered in another sermon or in an obituary which furnish so much historical data.

The Whitehall Times
May 13, 1976

Skenesborough's Two Academies - Before 1843
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The honoring of the 50-year graduates of Whitehall High school by the Historical Society of Whitehall brings to mind thoughts of the two academies for higher learning in the village.

The first academy was located on Academy Street, now Division Street, at the southeast corner of Center Street, later the site of the Jillson family home.

The academy was a long two-story building surmounted with a bell. No handy records give the story of this building but it was in existence before 1838 for at that time it was a place for meetings of various churches and social gatherings. At its demise the bell was taken from it and placed on the School 11 located at the corner of Blount and Lamb streets. This school then became known as the Bell School, as it was the only school in the village with a bell. The first academy had ceased to exist prior to 1848 for in that year Whitehall Academy was established and incorporated by the Board of Regents "to offer facilities for a thorough and finished education not surpassed by any similar institution in the vicinity."

The Whitehall Academy was located on the lot north of the present Williams Street "Long Row" on land of Melancthon Wheeler, who evidently owned the land of Skene Mountain and south on the east side of Wood Creek. The building was 40 by 45 feet made of bricks from the yard of John L. Smith and laid by bricklayer James Goodale. Two rooms housed boys and girls separately, as they met only for devotions.

Professor Reynolds for the boys and Preceptress Mary Mills for the girls taught the first year's 76 students English, ancient languages, mathematics and French while Harriet Wood carried on the fine arts of drawing, painting and music. There was a good library and scientific apparatus as these were taken into the Union Free School established later.

The list of names of the organizers and first board directors and trustees contains the familiar names the village benefactors. Horace Eddy, W. W. Cook and Oliver Bascom represented the lumber interests; Joseph Potter and Robert Doig were attorneys; John Boyd, Alfred Griswold and Anson Pat?? were businessmen; a Mason Blinn was of the family that owned the large farm at the south end of the present village. Athert??? Hall was a doctor a druggist.

This academy was in existence for 17 years but evidently fell into hard financial times.

The Whitehall Times
January 20, 1972

1843

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

District No. 3 trustee book of the Brick Church School starting with 1843 shows some contrasts of early education that existed in the "Good Old Days."

Two terms of school were kept: The winter school term beginning usually in November and lasting for four months and the spring school term beginning in April and running for three or four months. For some reason the wages of the teachers in summer school were always much lower than those in the winter school. This may have been because more pupils were able to attend during the winter, or could it have been that the summer school teachers were almost always women and therefore did not have equal pay?

During the '40's expenses were simple. The main ones were wood, repairs on the school house, and brooms. Brooms were 18 cents, wood about \$10 for four cords, and repairs from 52 cents to \$1.00. Library books were purchased almost every year, the average for this decade about \$6 but these were paid for by the public money which was also used for the teachers' salaries. Part of the money for the winter term was kept out to help finance the summer term and any deficit was made up by the district or, as often expressed, "made on the scholars."

The trustees for 1843-44 were William Merriam, William .Wells, and Jesse Brooks. Up to the 50's the trustees were not named but the same handwriting suggests that at least Jesse Brooks remained in that position. For 1843 the teacher for the winter term was Michael R. Kelley and for the summer term, Mary Knapp. No other teacher was named until 1849 and then Isaac N. Wood wrote a receipt in the trustees' book for his wages. The records for the 50's are scanty and for two years non-existent. Wood was up — now \$4 a cord; brooms had increased from 18 cents to 25 cents. Public money given to the district rose from the \$30's to the \$70's. In 1855-56 the first itemized account appeared for repairs on the school. One wonders if the school had deteriorated over a span, of years or whether vandalism took place. Twenty window glasses at 2 ½ cents apiece, 2 pounds of putty for 13 cents, 1 door lock with latch for 63 cents with installing 50 cents, one board at 6 cents and 2 days labor for all at \$1.50 brought the repairs for the year to \$3.57. The original 3 ¼ cords of wood cost \$9.75 but added were \$1.25 for drawing it, and \$3.25 for cutting and piling it. In spite "of these expenses the year 1856 ended with a balance of 18 cents.

Trustees named during the 50's were William Town, Justus Bartholomew, Smith Benjamin, Harry Douglass, William G. Merriam; while the teachers were Thomas Manchester, C. R. Sikes, Isaac N. Wood, Betsey Ann Merriam, S. Benjamin, Caroline Manchester, D. Hoams, Miss Mancim (Could this be Manchester?), John Millard, M. E. Morgan, R. W. Clark, and Martha Whitmore. During 1859-60, John Millard was paid \$18 with money received from Harry Douglass. This suggests a tutor's work rather than a regular teacher's as two other teachers were paid during that year.

Other decades have interesting details also.

The Whitehall Times
April 21, 1988

Whitehall Chronicle in the 1850's
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Fall Term of the Whitehall Academy began 3 October 1853 under W. P. Carpenter, A.M. as Principal and Miss Maria Mann as assistant. The people would, it was hoped, support the Academy as French and German were to be taught. Whether the same instructor was kept on or not, but the next notice was for the winter term of twelve weeks to begin 8 January 1856. G.A. Graves, A.B., was to be principal and Miss Augusta S. Adams, preceptress, described as experienced and successful teachers. Tuition for Common English Branches was 54.38; for Higher English Branches, \$5.31; Ancient Language and Higher Math, \$6.25; and French and Drawing and Painting \$3. Miss Adams had charge of the Young Ladies Department.

The Whitehall Times
May 26, 1988

Gleanings from the Whitehall Chronicle 1857-60
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

What a difference in obtaining a teacher's certification in 1857 from 1988. In 1857 John Hall, school commissioner for the second district of Washington County gave notice of the places in Washington County where persons wishing teaching certificates should go. In Whitehall it was Parke House, 15 April 1857, at 1 p.m. In a letter to the Chronicle he listed the qualifications he had to use. First-moral character; this was to be determined by testimonials of persons long acquainted with the applicants; second-learning; third-the ability to teach - the skill of imparting their knowledge to the pupils, to making study attractive to them. Mr. Hall wanted to know why the applicants wanted to enter this profession; if they had a thorough education and a well regulated mind and temper; if they were courteous and refined. If so they were fit to be in the classroom to rule with love and to show the path to knowledge and virtue.

The Whitehall Times
January 27, 1972

1860's
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The 1860's in Whitehall School District 3 trustee records were scanty in details for teacher names, wages and terms. Brooms were still bought each year and a water dipper for 10 cents with a pail for 70 cents. Some people can still remember the common drinking combination and the sought after privilege of going for the water. Slates were evidently now common for an added expense of chalk entered the accounts.

In 1865 taxes on the district began to equal the sum derived from public money. "Boarding round" of the teachers among the families of the district has been a subject of amusement but probably wasn't to those concerned but at this time expenses for board began to be written into the trustees' reports.

Another unexpected expense reported was that of a lawsuit in 1867. The reason and details were not given but the witnesses added to our knowledge of the families who lived in the district. Each of these people received \$1.25 for going to Granville: Asbury Merriam, Frank Douglass, Thomas Leonard, Lewis and Justus Bartholomew.

Trustees for this decade were: Justus Bartholomew, Isaac N. Wood, John W. Wood and George H. Murray. The teachers were named for four years only: Lyman J. Warren, Viola A. Hulett, Henry L. Stilson, Jane Gilbourne, James B. Sherman, Maggie McCulty and E. W. Skeels.

In the 1870's it would seem that the schoolhouse was sold as it was listed as income for \$550. A new one must have been secured as there was an expense for recording a deed and fencing. Included in the trustees' book is a statistical report for 1883-1884 which will give a fuller picture for the 1880's generally.

Eleven families in the district had children between the ages 5 and 21, Non-residents attending school were six in number. Ten of the school children had been vaccinated. The school year was 146 days, six of which were holidays. The library had 25 volumes enclosed in a bookcase.

The schoolhouse of this common school district was a frame building valued at \$500 set on a lot 36 rods square worth \$100. There was no fence separating it from the road but the privy had separate accommodations for the sexes.

The three teachers of the 31 weeks of school, Annie V. Wood, William M. Teck and Cora Wells, were duly licensed by E. C. Whittemore with a salary of \$9 for the winter term and \$5 for the summer which included the boarding around. They did not attend the teachers' institute.

The total expense of the school year was \$230 as reported by Trustee Lester Wells.

Other teachers for the decade were W. V. Wood, N. W. Vannier, William Rich, Wallace Wells, Olie Beckwith, Emerson Wood and Nellie Jackson while the other trustees were William J. Wood, John Clark, George W. Douglass, Frank Parks and Herman A. Bartholomew.

The Whitehall Independent

June 19, 198?

First Years of Whitehall High School – 1870's

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

One wonders why there was a gap of nine years between the first two generations of Whitehall High School. Perhaps this account from Superintendent C. W. Bardeen's annual report in 1872 explains. In the fall of 1870, after that first graduation, self-government on the part of the pupils was lacking. Courteous deportment, pride in the school, and cooperation with the teachers was not hoped for. There was no uniformity of textbooks, no system of examinations, and no succession of classes. In what was known as the high school, by trial, not five pupils succeeded in reading a paragraph of English prose without mispronunciations, or in writing a legal composition a page in length. One teacher had been hired to teach drawing, oil painting, and perhaps a class or two in French. The public was not satisfied with these conditions, although they did not help with daily attendance.

Within nine months, these conditions were changed. The most important was grading of the pupils and a regular course of study developed by organization. Uniformity of textbooks with enough to go around was provided; there were weekly meetings of teachers for collaboration, and a new system of pupils discipline and study. The building became comfortable. No more was there a fifty degree temperature in the class rooms.

After the English branches of study were on a firm basis, attention was turned to Drawing and Music. These two subjects were deemed desirable for practical use and refining influence. Attention was placed on teaching pupils not only what to do but how to do it. Learning by rote without understanding was frowned on.

At this time there were three school buildings in the village. The Brick School on the east side of Wood Creek, Wheeler Avenue had two rooms, the north room and the south room. First and second grades were in the north room and third grade was in the south. Miss Wood had the north room and with an exchange with Miss Gaylord for a few weeks in the winter term there was a marked change in attendance. There were three terms in the school year, fall, winter, and spring. Miss Martin took over for the spring term. In the south room, Miss Brown had charge for the whole year. Mr. Bardeen was generous in his praise of teachers for their devotion and ingenuity in teaching.

The Bell School was located at the corner of Blount and Lamb Streets, the building stands today. Its outside appearance was not pleasant but the inside was well lighted, brightly painted, and on the whole comfortable and pleasant, although the seats were too high and should be lowered four inches. There were two rooms, the upper and the lower. In the winter term, all pupils were transferred to the Central Building. Attendance suffered through lack of cooperation of the parents. The upper room was in charge of Miss Gaylord, one of the "most efficient and promising of teachers". The lower room was in charge of Miss Griswold, and "energetic and earnest teacher".

These two schools contained the primary department of the school. Here general exercises were given on slates and blackboard and instruction in Botany was given. The

first grade was taught reading from charts and a First Reader. The second grade has a Second Reader and arithmetic was added with notation and numeration. The third grade had a Third Reader and the first lesson in arithmetic.

The Whitehall Independent
June 24, 1987

Central Building in 1872
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A prominent school official visited the Central Building and described it as liberally planned, well built, and kept in excellent care. He suggested only two improvements; a reservoir on the roof to supply soft water to all rooms and grounds to be leveled, sodded, and fenced. The building was divided into eight rooms that were large and airy. Each would hold one hundred pupils but it was deemed best to put fifty pupils in a room under one teacher rather than one hundred into a room with a principal and an assistant. Superintendent C. W. Bardeen thought it would be advisable to partition two rooms on the first floor into four and have one teacher for each. Thus each room would have one year of the graded course.

During this school year, 1871-72, much progress was made in discipline, scholarship and attendance. The condition of the school in this 1872 report explains the lack of time between the first graduation in 1870 and the second one in 1879. The organization into progressive grades had to be followed to reach accepted state regulations.

To obtain the organization the school was divided into Lower Intermediate Department of approximately fourth and fifth grade level; the Higher Intermediate Department, sixth and seventh grade levels; the Grammar department, eighth and ninth grades; and the Upgraded class.

The Grammar Department of the older pupils had the greatest change. It was created at the beginning of the winter term. An examination at the end of the fall term was the basis for grading the pupils. These students profited from the work during the winter term and were graduates of the class at the spring term, ready to enter the tenth grade or what became known as the Academic Department.

During this year, a committee of young women took on a project of adorning the school room. During the last two terms, they rearranged the room, and by subscription and a strawberry festival raised funds to buy a regulator clock, illuminated mottoes, pictures, two groups of Rodgen's statues, and an organ spread. This last went on the piano that the departments earned for purchasing a cabinet organ. (Shades of what pupils in rural district schools used to do for equipment.) Twelve of this group graduated from the Grammar Department and were on to the Academic Department, which started with the tenth grade.

These family names can be recognized as Whitehall names; Bascom, Cain, Hill, Holcomb, Long, O'Reilly and Vanderwalker.

The teachers' names of this school yet are not so familiar, though some were from Whitehall: Misses Gaylord (W), Griswold (W), Fairbanks, Bacon, (Mrs.) Thompson, Davis, Jillson (W), Daniels of Vassar, Bates and Udell. Miss Jillson went on to the State Normal School at Oswego, now known as a part of the State University System of New York.

The Whitehall Independent July 1, 1987

Whitehall School Grades Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A third school in the Union Free School District 11 was School No. 17 on West Street south of the Central Building. It was consolidated with the Bell School and the Wheeler Avenue School into the new system and held a primary department as did those two schools.

Professor W. W. Howe added to the description of the first central building, reporting that each room, listed in The INDEPENDENT, June 24, had a recitation room and that there were stairways and cloakrooms at each end of the building.

C.W. Bardeen described the work of the grades into which the school was divided. The Intermediate grades, 4 through 7 were separated into higher and lower Intermediate and specialized in Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, and Spelling. The fifth grade added Geography, the subject so lacking in present day curriculums. The sixth grades continued these subjects in advanced content, and the seventh grade added United States History.

The Grammar Department gave lessons in Composition and Declamation. These two were demonstrated in the written essays and oral presentations at graduation time. Besides these were Physiology, and lessons and experiments in Natural Sciences. Eighth grade added Grammar with its passing and analyzing; ninth grade had Single and Double Entry Bookkeeping.

This brought the pupil to the Academic Department or tenth grade. From these subjects would be added - Shakespeare, Universal History, Algebra, and Natural Philosophy with use of apparatus, French, German, or Latin, and Composition. In fact some early class mottoes were in French until a printer couldn't produce it for he had no type. Afterwards they were done in Latin.

The calendar school year was divided into three terms: fall term September through December; a vacation of two weeks preceded the winter term - January to April; and a spring term - April to July following another two week vacation. A vacation of eight weeks preceded the next school year. Between these terms there was often a turnover of teachers, especially in the rural districts.

C. W. Bardeen could well be proud of the achievements he and his faculty made in this one year 1871-1872 in which a much disorganized system was directed into a purposeful organization.

Professor Howe told an incident that happened at the beginning of the high school history. Mrs. J.M. Dewey was the first superintendent beginning in 1869. She was deemed an excellent teacher but the town's people thought they needed a "man teacher". They obtained one J. K. Hall of Hoosick Falls. To their chagrin, they discovered that Hoosick Falls engaged Mrs. J.M. Dewey to succeed the man teacher. Mr. Hall remained only, a few weeks to retire out of the education field.

The Whitehall Independent

July 8, 1987

Interview with a Teacher

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Miss Edith Culver was a Whitehall High School graduate of 1887. With her were Harte Cooke, Mary D. Pittinger, and Emerson Wood in the graduation exercises in the Presbyterian Church. It was the fourth class in the history of the school to receive Regents Advanced Diplomas.

Miss Culver was a teacher, as was possible in those days, before graduation from high school. She taught in Hartford Village School and a country school in Hebron. After graduation, she taught in Hulett's Landing and West Haven. Her first school in Whitehall was Wheeler Avenue. After fifteen years of employment in Whitehall she spent six years at Hudson Trading School for girls, three years in Ticonderoga, six years in Sloatsburg and three years in West Albany. She retired to her home in Whitehall on Williams Street.

In the forties, Miss Louise Waite's English classes wrote essays as a part of the course of study. One year a subject for some students was local history and the school system was researched. Miss Culver gave interviews to the writers. She gave her impressions of the pupils as follows.

"It was very seldom discipline was necessary to help order the children. They loved to talk but were well behaved and mannerly. Playing 'hooky' occurred but being sent to the superintendent or getting spanked was usually a good enough cure. They were affectionate children in the days of the 80's and 90's. And even today (1940's) they think nothing of giving their old teacher a hug on the street. They were truly grateful for anything done for them and never forgot it," she said.

The school system and curriculum were simple," she continued. The three R's composed the greater part of the lesson. Music was the other part. The children were musically inclined and learned very easily. Each teacher had her own physical education.

Holidays usually meant elaborate programs, visitors and gifts at Christmas. During spring months, strawberry festivals were held and a few cents admission charged. It was from such sources that a new piano was purchased.

Fire drills were executed. Chattering usually accompanied them but the children, especially small ones, could be serious minded even to the point of being humorous," she added.

Visitors to the school gave reason for quite an occasion. She and her third grade were striving for perfection for an important visitor. All went well until a small girl began frantically waving her hand, almost falling from her seat. Upon inquiring, the child said the Miss Culver's side combs were about to drop from her hair. Perfection alone was missing from the teacher."

Comparing the school system then (1890's) and now (1940's), Miss Culver considered it wonderful. Her class had four to graduate in 1887. There was no graduation in 1886. Miss Culver said because there were only two to graduate that year, she had to wait to be graduated in 1887.

The Whitehall Independent

July 15, 1987

Schools in the Village

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

When the State of New York made it mandatory that there should be schools for its children at the beginning of the nineteenth century, the village began electing three commissioners each year to oversee these schools. District schools were built, seventeen in number, three of them in the village, 11, 15, and 17.

The earliest school building was in a clothes shop on the site of the present lock, according to Johnson's History of Washington County. A first academy, two stories, stood at the northwest corner of Center and Division Streets. This building was used often for public and organizational meetings, religious business and political meetings. It had a bell on the roof that was transferred to No. 11, the Bell School. The building was destroyed around 1850. The street for a time was called Academy Street.

Small private schools were conducted at various times. Bartlett Dibble had a school in a building next to the present Chandler's Store. His wife kept it after he died as a select school for the young which was called the Dame School. The first Episcopal Church, 1837, converted its basement into a school room. Simeon Wright had a school there when the building became the First Baptist Church. A Mr. Vaughn conducted a boys' school in the Vaughn Hotel. Another boys' school was held in a building at the southwest corner of Saunders Street and present Broadway.

To furnish education for the older pupils the Whitehall Academy was developed on Williams Street, north of the Foote place, which was north of the Long Row. It existed from 1848 to 1865 but was closed because of lack of funds. Its library and laboratory equipment were transferred to the Central Building when that was constructed.

In 1868, the citizens demanded a school for higher education and the Central Building came into being. Three district schools were added, Bell School, No. 11 at the corner of Lamb and Blount which is still standing, Wheeler Avenue, No. 17, now a parking lot and school No. 17 several doors south of Central, still standing to make Union Free School District No. 11. This building was erected on Pierce Knoll facing West Street. It was opened in 1869.

In 1875, Adams Street School was added to accommodate lower grades in that part of Whitehall. It was occupied in 1876.

Again to better accommodate elementary grades, Williams Street School was erected in 1899. At this time the three district schools were discontinued and the buildings were sold. This new building was considered palatial with its eight class rooms and a huge entry hall with broad stairs leading to the second floor. A small narrow room at the front was used by some of the school superintendents.

The Whitehall Independent

October 7, 1987

The Old Academy

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Until recently the main source of information about the Old Academy, was a newspaper article on its dissolution. But now here appears an essay on that institution written for the Historical Society by Mrs. Ida Adams Brown (Malcolm) who had access to reliable information.

Judge Melancthon Wheeler, a prominent citizen saw the need of better educational opportunities for the young and gave to the Village a piece of land for a building. Originally the building was forty by forty five feet. The bricks used came from John L. Smith's brickyard and James Goodale laid them under the supervision of Jonathon Policy. The building was finished in 1848 and the school was incorporated by the Regents of the University of New York and opened in the fall of that year, 1848.

The north room of the school held the girls and the south room the boys. In the first year the number of pupils was seventy-six and the second year, ending 10 April 1850, was one hundred five. This corresponded to a high school.

The boys department was under the supervision of a professor and the girls department had a preceptress. During school hours boys and girls were together only for the devotional exercises, after that they were entirely separate.

The first Board of Education were the prominent business men, industrialists, professionals, and land owners: Hiram Eddy, president; Atherton Hall, secretary/treasurer; John Boyd, W. W. Cook, Olive Bascom, Joseph Potter, Robert Doig, A.H. Griswold, Anson Parks, Mason O. Blin, Justin A. Smith.

Mrs. Brown wrote that the first teachers in 1848 were Principal Werdo Reynolds, preceptress Mary Mills, and teacher of music and drawing Harrie Wood but, the Democrat of December 1848 reported that the Winter Term would open 3 January 1849 with Mrs. Maynard Principal, and Miss Lucy Maynard, assistant

The academy as a school building existed until 1865, a period of seventeen years. It was discontinued for financial reasons and a declining student body A.P. Cook bought the building. Some years later it passed into other hand and was largely rebuilt. At one time it was owned by Malcolm J. Brown who lived in it with his family for man years. The library and laboratory apparatus was given to the Union Free School formed almost immediately to continue higher education in Whitehall.

As yet there are no dates for man; of the teachers who followed with not even first names-Gangon, Ballard, Pachard with Preceptress Miss Haight with these exceptions. For the spring term beginning April 1856 G.A. Groves was professor with Miss Augusta Adams and for the fall term, 27 August 1856, Mr. Grove: and Miss Rebecca Mitchell with Miss Lois L. Willis who taught French. At that time there were three terms of school attendance, fall, winter and spring Reverend Horace Finch was the last Principal of the Academy.

The Whitehall Times February 14, 1980

Whitehall Public Schools 1871-72 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

C W. Bardeen became superintendent of Whitehall Public Schools 16 October 1871, six weeks after the beginning of the fall term, succeeding James K. Hull. At the close of the school year, 12 July 1872, he made a report to the board of education.

When he came to Whitehall, Mr. Bardeen found a lack of discipline, poor deportment on the part of the pupils, little cooperation among the teachers, and confusion in instruction. There was no system of examinations, no succession of classes, and no uniformity of textbooks. Pupils could not read a paragraph without mispronunciation, write legibly, or produce a composition. Mr. Bardeen deplored this condition and bewailed the hiring of a teacher for teaching just drawing, oil-painting and French. The people of the community were discontented over the schools and spoke of neighboring town schools with envy.

Nine months later there was a complete turnaround. The schools were under excellent discipline; the teachers were cooperative and had rapport with the pupils. A system of grading was in operation so that no pupil could be advanced without a satisfactory examination. Uniform textbooks and weekly teacher meetings provided a better school atmosphere. The community had become cordial and appreciative.

This change was brought about in part by neglecting two departments of education, music and drawing, which Mr. Bardeen deemed important. He believed drawing should not be taught by copying pictures but by having pupils draw by principles. He gave a problem in drawing that art pupils should be able to solve on art examination: A B C D is a plan of a box; E F represents a partition dividing the box into equal parts; H K L N and P R S T are vertical sections P the former taken parallel to the side DC — and the latter parallel to the side D A. The circle H is the plan of a barrel and U V W X a vertical section of it. Suppose the observer at O and the eye to be at some little distance above the top of the barrel; draw the box and barrel as they would appear to him.

The best way to teach music, according to Mr. Bardeen, would be to have all the teachers prepared to give the instruction to their own pupils in the interest of convenience and economy and money. Music is not an occult science. It is a simple, mathematical branch of learning. While some may lack a correct ear and cannot sing in unison, they are

few and not to be found among the teachers and pupils of this school. The National Music charts are a complete course in instruction excellently arranged and he recommended the purchase of as many more as are needed to supply all the schools.

The text books used in the schools were: Analytical Reader, Robinson's Arithmetics, Guyot's Elementary Geography, Cornell's Intermediate Geography, Marches Parser and Analyser, Smith's Latin Principals, Rolfe's Editions of Shakespeare Plays, Youman's Botany and Spencerian Copy Books.

The Whitehall Times February 21, 1980

The School Report 1871-72 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The annual Report of Superintendent of Public Schools for 1871-1872 gives additional details about three of Whitehall's school buildings.

The east side of the village had School 15 or the Wheeler Avenue School on the north side of that street. From description only, no picture, this school had two rooms, the north with the first two grades and the south with the third grade. The teachers for this year were Miss Wood, Miss Gaylord, Miss Martin and Miss Brown.

Evidently the building was in need of repair for the report stated "It is earnestly to be desired that the day is not far distant when the children living on the east side of the creek will be taught in "a building capacious, comfortable and attractive." This happened in 1899 when the Williams Street School was constructed.

The Bell School House was No. 11 in the early numbering of district schools in Whitehall. It was named because it had the bell from the first Whitehall Academy on Division Street. The building itself still stands at the corner of Blount and Lamb Streets. The school was contained in two stories, the upper room and the lower. Mr. Bardeen described it as well lighted, brightly painted, comfortable and pleasant. This follows the description that Jesse Walker made of it when he went to school there. Mr. Bardeen suggested improvement in the type of desks and chairs used. His main complaint about the school was the absenteeism — laying it on the lack of cooperation of the parents who considered it better to have the pupils saw a few sticks of wood or pick a few quarts of berries than to go to school.

The Central School, Mr. Bardeen considered a credit to Whitehall. It was well planned; built and kept in excellent condition by the janitor. It needed only a reservoir on the roof for soft water to run to every room and level, sodded and graded grounds.

Eight rooms, light and airy, could seat 100 pupils each, but as no teacher should have more than 50 pupils, the superintendent suggested that the rooms be partitioned. This didn't happen right away for Mrs. Mae Barker described the rooms as having two classes being conducted at the same time.

Names of the teachers in this school year, 1871-1872 were Miss Fairbanks, Mrs. Willson, Miss Bascom, Miss Thompson, Miss Davis, Miss Jillson, Miss Daniels, Miss

Bates and Miss Udell. They aided young ladies in decorating the rooms and holding a social to raise money for supplies.

Mr. Bardeen was generous in his praise of these teachers. One remark is notable: There are many who can take her place; few who can fill it.

The first book of the board of education's minutes is lacking. This report is valuable for that reason also.

The Whitehall Times February 21, 1980

First Time Experiments 1872 & 1884 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Do you remember the excitement the first time you were to take physics in high school? All those pieces of equipment, bottles, Bunsen burners, and even that skeleton that hung in the background and the electric circle you were placed in the center of.

Here is a program for a school demonstration for the public to show what the high school was giving to its pupils. There were not as many in a class at that time and probably this was most of the upper classmen at the time for the Union School had not been in existence for a long time. This is a program of a Scientific School Entertainment put on November 9, 1872 at 2 p.m. by the pupils of the academic department:

1. Properties of the Atmosphere, Alexander McNeely.
2. Pressure of the Atmosphere, William Johnson.
3. The Air Pump, Amos Putnam.
4. Application of the Air Pump, Henry Potter.
5. The Barometer, Cornelia Policy.
6. Lifting pump and Siphon, William Smith.
7. Centrifugal and Centripetal Forces, Otis Dennis.
8. The Pendulum, Ida Hopson.
9. Vibrations, Lovina Dennis.
10. The Monochord, Fred Ray.

An Encyclopedia

And do you remember how pupils held events to buy some necessary book or equipment for the school, not for trips to other places?

In May 1884 the Academic Department was in need of an encyclopedia. To obtain it, the school decided to enter a State Prize Contest, the purpose of which was to aid and encourage pupils in advancement. Prizes were given not only for studies taught in the school for also for essays and declamation.

Principal Miller urged this participation, not entered before, in the declamations and recitations. The small admission charge would be used to pay for the state entrance fee to the contest and to buy an encyclopedia. This was to occur in two weeks. One wonders what was won, if anything, for the results were not reported in the newspaper two weeks late.

The Whitehall Times
March 29 1873

March 1873
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The monthly school report of E. P. Jackson, superintendent, showed 598 pupils enrolled in the schools with an 88 % attendance.

The Whitehall Times
May 31, 1873

May 1873
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The death of S. E. Floyd was reported 22 May 1873.
He was a principal of the Whitehall Academy on Williams street in 1859. His wife was the daughter of James Terry. He had a boot and shoe business with his father-in-law.

The Whitehall Times
September 27, 1873

September 1873
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

September, 1873, from the Whitehall Times:
Professor E. Butler from the principalship of Seymour School, Syracuse, has arrived to serve in the Whitehall schools.
The full term of the Union Free School opened. The high school has 63 pupils; first Intermediate, 42; second Intermediate, 89; first primary, 50; second primary of Wheeler Avenue, 105; primary of the Bell School, 114; a total of 500 pupils for the opening day.

The Whitehall Times
November 8, 1973

October 1873
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Last Friday Miss Mollie Griswold held a reunion at the Bell School House for the pupils who have attended her school since she has had charge of it. About 150 children were present. (School is still standing at the corner of, Blount and Lamb streets.)

At the annual school meeting held last evening, E. A. Martin, James Doren and H. Gibson were reelected school trustees and the sum of \$8,500 voted for expenses for the coming year.

In this year the course of study for the Whitehall Union Free School was adopted. Extending through a period of 12 years, the school was divided into four departments — primary, intermediate, grammar and high school. Two examinations a year were to be held, at the end of each 21 weeks of school.

Oral instruction, as a general exercise was required in all departments. The primary department had to repeat verses and maxims; the intermediate began writing on slates; the grammar department used copy books; the material covered in each department was set down in text book and page.

Some books used were Analytical Reader, Guyot's Elementary Geography, Robinson's First Arithmetic Lessons and Rudiments, Spencerian Copybook, Karl's Short Course Grammar and Warren's Physical Geography.

Other general exercises consisted of calisthenics and singing. It would seem teacher and pupil would know where they were going and where they had been.

The Whitehall Times
November 8, 1973

November 1873
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

There was a proposal to increase the Free School District by taking in as much of District 8 as is included in the French district. The hearing was to be 8 December.

The Whitehall Times **November 21, 1973**

Whitehall in 1874 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Anniversary Bells: Mr. and Mrs. David Busteed, Nov. 21. Wayne and Lynne Prindle, Mr. and Mrs. Farrell Prefontaine, Nov. 23. Mr. and Mrs. Leo Longtin, Nov. 27. Mr. and Mrs. John FitzGerald, Nov. 28

Whitehall in 1874

School pupils today are missing the sound of the school bell which was usually placed in a belfry of the roof. It was a warning bell and a last call sound. In district schools it was an honor eagerly sought to ring the bell with teacher's approval.

The Union Free District No. 11 of Whitehall's high school was built on Pierce's Knoll at the corner of West and South Bay (later School) streets after the district was formed in 1866.

Evidently there was no bell in the belfry that shows in the early pictures of this building for the issue of The Whitehall Times of 3 September states: "Our public schools opened Monday morning last, the new bell acting like a charm, calling loudly, and in tones most melodious, to all the pupils to be on time."

Another item gives this account of the acquisition of the bell. A committee of the Board of Education on securing a bell submitted a resolution which was passed. The resolution was directed to the president of the board, E. A. Martin, for the generous and munificent gift of a perfect and appropriate bell. There had long been a need for a bell, not only for a convenience but as a necessity, to secure promptness and regularity with teachers and the scholars and warn parents and guardians, of the school hour. High taxes and financial conditions of the district had deterred the board from procuring a bell.

"It is the hope of each member of the board, that as the tones of this school bell are heard over our village, it may be the means of securing in every scholar that promptness and fidelity to duty which has characterized the generous giver in his business relations with the board and the Union School District."

What happened to this bell? In the 1920's and 1930's it occupied a space at the top of the entrance stairs to the right; clearly saved from the construction of the building. Like the nation's Liberty Bell, it had a crack on its side. E. A. Martin's name was clearly set forth on it. Then it disappeared. One story says that in the heat of patriotic fervor of war time it was sent to Troy for the scrap drive.

In 1874 this school opened 31 August with 548 pupils; 20 in the high school; 36 in the grammar school; 182 in the intermediate department; 310 in the primary. The first day of school was spent mainly in holding examinations for those pupils who had not taken them in June. At the same 29 August meeting the board authorized the purchase of a site on Adams Street and the erection of a school house, cost not to exceed \$2500.

On 4 September a committee from Glens Falls visited Whitehall to examine its graded school system with a view of its adoption for Glens Falls. Board members and

Professor Butler did everything possible to impress them with our admirable system. The visitors said they were well pleased with what they saw and heard.

On 31 October the trustees of the Whitehall Academy Association resolved that the library and apparatus of the academy (on Williams Street) be delivered to the Board of Education of the Union Free School.

In the 11 November issue an irate ex-teacher had a letter to the Editor. The editor of The Whitehall Chronicle evidently had spoken before a county meeting of teachers calling them, among other things "lady teachers." The letter said: "How kindly did he remind them of their calling; of their noble impulses to impart their knowledge to others; of their self-sacrifices; of their struggles to support themselves. How comforting to their weary brain was his sarcasm. How shall his noble-souled kindness be rewarded? Then how skillful he was; he could do it all by one 'cultured' word, the decisive word, 'school marms.' Probably he calls a mother 'the old woman'." Then and there she cancelled her subscription to The Chronicle.

The Whitehall Independent December 11, 1985

The Old School Bell Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Many, many Whitehallers remember climbing the outside stairs of Central Building on Pierce's Knoll, West Street, to enter the double doors. A few steps took them to another set of stairs that led to the main floor. Many may have missed noticing the bell that was on the floor at the top of the flight as it was snug to the wall by the teacher's room door.

There the bell sat, mostly unnoticed, unpolished, and unread, for it had an inscription upon its side. Its disappearance was almost unnoticed. It was at the time of World War II. An explanation was that, patriotically, it had been given to the scrap drive. Recently its disposition was found in some letters concerning the bell.

In July 1943, at the request of the president of the Board of Education, the president of the Meneely Bell Company came to the school to inspect the bell. He found it to weigh 457 pounds of bell metal and 45 pounds of clapper and supporting bolt. This was only the bell. There were no mountings. On the side of the bell was the name "Jones Troy Bell Foundry Co. 1874". Fortunately Mr. Meneely had the records of this older company and the transaction. On July 7, 1874. E.A. Martin of Whitehall ordered a bell of 500 pounds with the complete mountings at a price of \$200. It was to have an inscription "Union Free School, Whitehall, N.Y., Presented by E.A. Martin". This man was the president of the Board of Education for several years. An old picture of the first school on the site shows a bell tower. Presumably it hung there for some time. From the time it was purchased until the time it was removed, it was in Whitehall for 69 years.

After his inspection Mr. Meneely opined the bell was in good condition and he would be willing to pick it up at the Whitehall freight station and test it at his factory. If it should be found deficient or cracked, he would return it to Whitehall or turn it over to

the local salvage board. The rate of salvage was fifteen cents per pound, the ceiling price established by the government.

Evidently the bell was found defective for a month later a check of \$90 was received by Whitehall Central School for the bell that had been picked up by the company truck. This was at the rate of fifteen cents for 500 pounds. Thus the clarion that notified laggards to school that they better hurry or would be late was disposed.

The Whitehall Independent
April 29, 1987

January 1874
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Another bit of school history is the fate of the school bell that stood many years at the top of the inside stairs of Central Building on School and West streets just outside the teachers room door. I had heard that it had been sold in a scrap drive of World War II. This past summer I read some correspondence concerning the bell's fate. The bell was purchased July 7, 1874 by E.A. Martin, a president of the Board of Education at that time. He ordered the bell of 500 pounds with complete mountings for \$200. The inscription on it read: "Union Free School, Whitehall, N.Y. Presented by E.A. Martin". There it rang on the old school building until the school was reconstructed when it was placed inside the building.

In 1943 President of the Board of Education Henry Neddo wrote the same company that made the bell, Meneely Bell Company of Troy, concerning its disposition. The company replied that if the bell was intact they would give \$90 for it or if was damaged they would pay fifteen cents per pound for salvage for the bell, clapper, and bolt which altogether was 502 pounds. The next piece of correspondence was a note that accompanied the check of \$90. One wonders if the old bell is still doing service somewhere.

The Whitehall Times
November 29, 1973

January 1874
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

School commissioner Whitmore was ordered to annex the lands lately owned by M. O. Blinn to the school district.

The Whitehall Times
July 23, 1988

Gleanings from the Whitehall Chronicle in 1874
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In July 1874 Superintendent Butler listed the honor roll of the Whitehall School in which he gave the names of the teachers. Through the years we have heard the ladies' names who were pioneers in our school system: The Misses Watson, Fairbanks, Gilbert, Brown, Martin, Griswold, and Mrs. Thomas. At this time the board of education was concerned about the lack of school space for the hundreds of pupils in the Village in the primary and intermediate departments. In their deliberations they suggested places where school buildings could be erected that would serve the village; one on the east side of Wood Creek; another south of the railroad depot, say on Adams Street; another near Lake Station or Elbow; another later on Williams Street near the French Settlement.

The Whitehall Times
July 23, 1988

Whitehall Chronicle in the 1870's – (Two Laws)
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In 1874 two laws were passed. One was the Compulsory Education Law that required parents to give their children a common school education from years 8 to 16 years. There should be fourteen weeks of schooling including reading, writing, geography, arithmetic, and grammar. Doesn't seem possible that parents had to be forced to give their children an education - but there is still a problem of dropouts. The second law was that villages should publish at least once a year detailed information of money received and expended. This should be in newspapers or posted. The debt of the community should be posted in at least five places.

St. Mary's Band ascended Skene Mountain by torch light 18 May and there gave beautiful music. It reminded traveled people of such occasions in the Alps.

The Whitehall Times
January 1, 1976

1876
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

By 19 January, 1876, the new school on Adams Street was occupied. In charge of Miss Hendricks, it presented-a great accommodation to the people of the south part of the

town. The building was a strong frame structure and an ornament to the locality. It was built by O.C. Burroughs.

The Whitehall Times
February 26, 1976

1876

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The location of the sites of schools, past and present, is another subject to be placed on the Washington County Historic Survey for Whitehall.

The 17 district school locations are known and many of the buildings still in existence although oriented to other uses. The red brick one in the Sciota District has been depicted in crayon and the picture is in Skenesborough Museum. The schools of the village can be marked easily.

But there is tantalizing mention of other schools that have no details. There was the Dame School of Mrs. Dibble on Williams Street; a possible two-story one at the corner of Pike and Saunders streets; and one in the building directly at the corner of Broadway and Saunders Street, next to the second Episcopal Church. The first Episcopal Church trustees rented the basement of their building for school purposes.

The Feb. 9, 1876, issue of The Whitehall Times contained Letters to the Editor about an ungraded school in the Vaughan House. The New York Tribune had printed an article which did discredit to this school and called it an extraordinary seminary.

C. W. Bardeen, a former teacher in Whitehall, took issue in a Letter to the Editor. He described the present superintendent of that time, Ebenezer Butler, who maintained at Whitehall his well earned reputation as an unusually zealous and efficient school officer.

Mr. Bardeen continued with the information that three people, not members of the board of education, investigated the charges in the Tribune (first stated in the Troy Press) and found that there was no card playing or drunkenness or other unseemly conduct in the school. Mr. Bardeen asked that his letter be printed in the Tribune. Both Mr. Butler, superintendent of schools, and E. A. Martin, board of education president, addressed letters to the paper asking that the story be retracted. It wasn't.

A month later, the March 1 issue contained the story of a supper given for the pupils of this ungraded school at the Vaughan House. The idea was advanced by Dr. Root. The parlors of the Vaughan House were secured and a stove set up. The room was decorated with bunting and mottoes "graced" the walls.

Mayor Pierce and A. H. Hopson were the main speakers while the Whitehall Cornet Band furnished music with teachers from the Union Free School (Central building) — Mrs. L. E. Thompson, Miss Watson, Miss Hamlin. Ladies of the village furnished refreshments.

A. M. Doherty drew up an artistic document which contained a pledge to abstain from the use of intoxicating drink. It was signed by those present. The boys of the school sent a "card" of appreciation to the ladies: "In behalf of the scholars in the ungraded school we respectfully return our sincere thanks to the ladies for their kindness

in providing an excellent supper on the evening of Feb. 22. Thomas Barney, Thomas Gibbon, Thomas Fagan, Edear Jillson. Committee."

The Whitehall Times
February 26, 1976

School Topics September 1877
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The schools of Whitehall opened the last week of August, 1877, with 641 pupils, the largest number of scholars (not kids then) for the first week since the Union School District 11 organization in 1866. Professor Butler was the principal or superintendent at this time. He served Whitehall from 1873-1882.

This school district had been in existence for 11 years. The school building, known as Central Building, had seen nine years. The Whitehall Academy on Williams Street which had served not only Whitehall but surrounding areas in advanced education was closed, sold under a mortgage failure. Interested citizens in August 1866 consolidated districts No. 11 (Bell School). No. 15 (Wheeler Avenue), and No. 17, (West Street) into the Union School District No. 11. In December a boys' ungraded school was added.

In the spring of 1868 a school building was determined upon. Joseph Wilson, one of Whitehall's prominent architects and builders, completed it for the winter term for a cost of 517,000. It was very up to date with primary rooms in the basement, intermediate grades on the first floor, and grammar and high school on the second floor. Each school had a recitation room with stairways and cloakrooms at each end of the building. Mrs. May (Coombs) Barker, class of 1890 drew a plan of the arrangement as she remembered it.

In the last week of September of 1877, the annual Teachers Institute was held in West Hebron. For five days and evenings 206 registered teachers of Washington County met for classes and lectures — a far cry from the one or two days conference of recent years.

The course of study was practical. It included all educational topics then taught in primary and graded schools. Each teacher was given a blank book to take notes. Lessons were heavy in arithmetic and geography. There were lessons in penmanship and on reading. The evenings were occupied with lectures on "Should moral training form a span of the school exercises," "The Elements of personal power" and "Education — Our own and other peoples' opinion of it." One wonders what Mrs. J. J. Dewey, the first superintendent of Whitehall's high school, would think of education classes and pupils today. The first graduation took place in 1870, her year of tenancy, and the second one in 1879.

The Whitehall Times
February 2, 1978

January 1878
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The book of the district school in the Rathbun area is in existence. From it can be obtained the description of a district school in 1819. This next item gives dimensions of district school in the East Whitehall area. At a school meeting held at L. B. Merriam's Dec. 26, to take action about rebuilding the school house burned down in District No. 3 two weeks before, William J. Wood was called to the chair and William G. Merriam acted as clerk. Plans were presented by Mr. Winn, the schoolmaster, for a new building. The plan, as finally adopted, was for a school building 24 by 40 with a wing 12 by 14. Forty-four pupils could be accommodated in the contemplated building that would cost \$600. At that time the daily session of school was being held in the residence of Erastus B. Douglas.

The following week the contract had been let to A. W. Jackson for \$400. The names of Wood, Merriam and Douglas are those of the families of the Brick Church neighborhood. There was a famous Douglas virgin tree of note on the Douglas farm for many years.

The Whitehall Times
September 28, 1978

September 1878
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

School opened Monday, 2 September, with an attendance of over 600 pupils. Fifteen teachers with Professor Ellis at the head comprise the faculty. The buildings in use were Central Building, Bell School House, Wheeler Avenue School, and Adams School. The latter had only the primary department, while the other two schools outside Central building had higher primary and lower primary.

The Whitehall Times
November 30, 1978

October 1878
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

At the annual school meeting of Union Free School No. 14 held at Village Hall, 8 Oct. two papers were presented to the public, by one of the trustees and one by the .finance committee. The first one asked for \$5,900 to be raised by taxes; the other, \$4500.

The Whitehall Times
June 21, 1979

May 1879
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Miss Edith Jillson obtained a teacher's certificate and would teach school in Fair Haven. (She was later a teacher in Whitehall). Miss Anna Gibbs opened a private primary school in J. H. Adams' house on Wilson Avenue.

The Whitehall Times
October 25, 1979

October 1879
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

At the annual school meeting Oct. 14 the board of education decided to raise a tax of \$6,500. Teachers' wages were estimated at \$6,800; janitor's \$600, and fuel \$500.

The Whitehall Times
March 6, 1980

February 1880
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Miss M. Martin and Miss M. Jillson were visited by the editor of the paper. Their work of teaching 140 pupils in the Bell School, ages 5 to 10 years, in reading, writing and mathematics was highly commended.

The Whitehall Times
March 13, 1980

March 1880
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The editor visited Adams Street Primary School, with Mrs. Law as teacher. In one room, she had 80 pupils on the roll with an average attendance of 60. The bright little army of children gave evidence that their education was well begun.

The Whitehall Times
September 18, 1980

September 1880
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The fall term of Union Free School began Aug. 30 with 600 pupils. The superintendent was E. Butler.

The teachers in Central Building were Misses E. H. Gilbert, A. M. Juliard, F. J. Baker, S. H. Gardiner, C. Holbrook, L. H. Gaylord, E. McClerkin, A. C. Steere, C. E. Hendrick, M. Hawley; Bell School, I.L. Cain, M. Jillson; Wheeler Avenue, J. E. Cain, M. McAllister; Adams Street, M.J. Law.

The Whitehall Times
June 25, 1981

June 1881
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

On May 31 graduation from the French Catholic Church School of French took place. For nine months classes had been conducted in French for anyone wishing to learn that language. This was under the direction of Rev. L. E. Adams and Miss Bienvenue.

The Whitehall Times
May 12, 1983

1883
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Mrs. C.H. Bailey usually wrote stories of the Whitehall people she interviewed. But this time in 1883 she wrote reminiscence from her own childhood. If she hadn't named locations, I wouldn't have been certain it wasn't a tale, and she didn't label it a story either, the usual custom of the newspapers then.

In early Whitehall the District School Boys and the Academy Boys were feuding. Before the organization of the Union Free School in the village there were at the Bell School No. 11 and the Wheeler Avenue School No. 15, at the corner of Lamb and Blount Streets and Wheeler Avenue respectively. The Academy could have been the first one at the corner of Center and Division streets or the second one on Williams Street north of the Long Row. I suspect it was the first one that burned in 1850.

No one seemed to know the cause of the ill feeling among the boys. It could have been jealousy of the District Boys because the Academy Boys paid tuition and had better clothes, but that doesn't excuse the Academy Boys. Parents, teachers, and clergy from the pulpits had tried to stop the animosities but to no avail. Even little Dewey's remonstrance's had no effect. He was a slight, weak loved by all.

One winter day the Academians planned to slide that following moonlit night. They plotted carefully to slide all day on Wheeler Avenue to make the District boys think they would be tired and would not go out that evening on Tug Hill. The plan succeeded up to the point when they about reached the top of the hill for the first ride. Suddenly out of the trees above burst the District Boys with the wild yell, "Clear the track", and threw themselves on the sleds.

The track down Tug Hill had first a small incline, then a long straight stretch turning onto a steep slope which flashed over a marshy spot and led to the end on the "basin" or harbor. This was along Bellamy Street. The sides fell away into a steep slope. What ever one saw at the same moment upon the road was a stick of wood that, if struck by the District Boys, would cause a serious accident. Of all the terror struck boys only one could move, and that was little Dewey. He ran before the oncoming sleds and with a last spurt threw the stick from the road. But the momentum carried him with it and over the steep incline which he rolled down to land in a senseless heap.

Little Dewey was carried home on padded sled to lie for weeks in a weakened condition. Both groups of boys kept watch and were drawn together in their concern over the friend of them all. When the leaders finally informed him of their resolve to stop the feud, Dewey's condition improved rapidly and he was able to attend the spring school graduation. His loving care had effected what parents, teachers, and clergy had been unable to achieve-peace and harmony among the schools population.

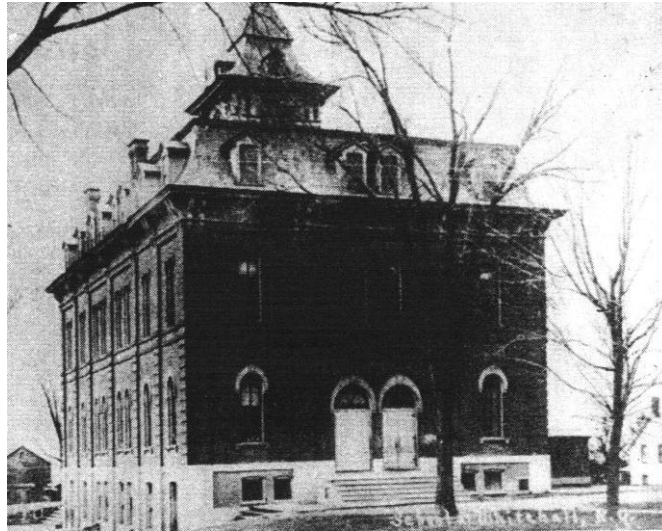
The Whitehall Independent
April 27, 1983

February 1883
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Whitehall February 24, 1883

Editor Times: In the next story of the Union School Building above the basement, the visitor enters the lower intermediate department which is conducted by Miss Ella McClerken assisted by Miss Lulu Lotrace. The former lady has been teaching here several years, which is evidence of her ability. The latter is well known as an industrious and intelligent graduate of the High School and a successful teacher in other places. It does not take many minutes to discover that this is a place of work. The drone would soon find it an unpleasant place. The pupils are kept thinking and much attention is given to expressing their thoughts. Composition writing is not now such a course of terror as it was formerly. Descriptions of common events are written daily. A class had for a subject the making of hay. Two or three of the pupils could describe it well.

Even so able a writer as James Parior confessed to the evening high school in Boston last week half educated people are often found in the highest walks of life. He himself had once found on visiting England that his education was wholly deficient in many respects. When asked if such and such a flower was a native of America he could not tell. He was unable to inform the questioner how much grass was cut to an acre in America. He had not fully comprehended the fact that any grass was ever cut in this country. It was to be observed that no people had so thoroughly separated themselves from nature as Americans.



In the east room of the second story is the higher intermediate school, coordinated by Miss Lucy Gaylord, assisted by Miss Edith Jillson. Perhaps more pupils here begin a course of study independently of teachers than elsewhere, because they are at an age when they must decide if they shall be left behind by the workers. How great the importance of encouraging, patient wise teaching. And here it is found Miss Gaylord has

the pleasant effective manner of a good leader and manager of youths, as has often been remarked by parents. Speaking of the desire of her pupils for reading, she said they would gladly read good books if they had them. This corresponds with the statement of Prof. Greenwood of Kansas City who says: ' Going through the rooms I found some children who read no books; others again that read only the poor; all were anxious to read. The teachers are only too glad to help them.'

Miss Jillson is a capable assistant, doing her work punctually and conscientiously, and there is a great amount of work to do, both in school and out of it. And, in mentioning work, that of the school board deserves commendation. The gentlemen composing the board devote much time to their business meetings, their inspections, and some unavoidable annoyances. The thorough cleanliness of all the school rooms and their uniform warmth shows too that the janitor does his work well.

The Whitehall Times

March 17, 1983

February 1883

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

School affairs were prominent. The Rev. M. C., Lockwood was invited to examine the work done at the school. The system of education under the new principal was changing. It was a mechanical method of instruction called the Quincy Method. By this method the child could grasp the principle better than through cramming. The clergyman was pleased with this new method that would stimulate the mind, arouse the pupil's interest and fact that he would remember, not repeat by rote.

Regents Certificates were becoming more important every year, now about the only work of distinction for educational merit outside Normal and College diplomas. It bears the seal of the State and places the holder on an equal footing with all others in the state. Examinations of teachers in the Second Assembly District of Washington were held in the surrounding schools in the spring.

The Whitehall Independent

May 18, 1983

March 5, 1883

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

This is the third paper written by Philo, I think probably W. A. Wilkins of the Whitehall Times.

Whitehall March 5th '83

Editor of the Times:--The grammar school of this place, as taught by Miss Lovina Dennis, assisted by Miss Sarah Gardiner, is a success. Miss Dennis is highly esteemed at

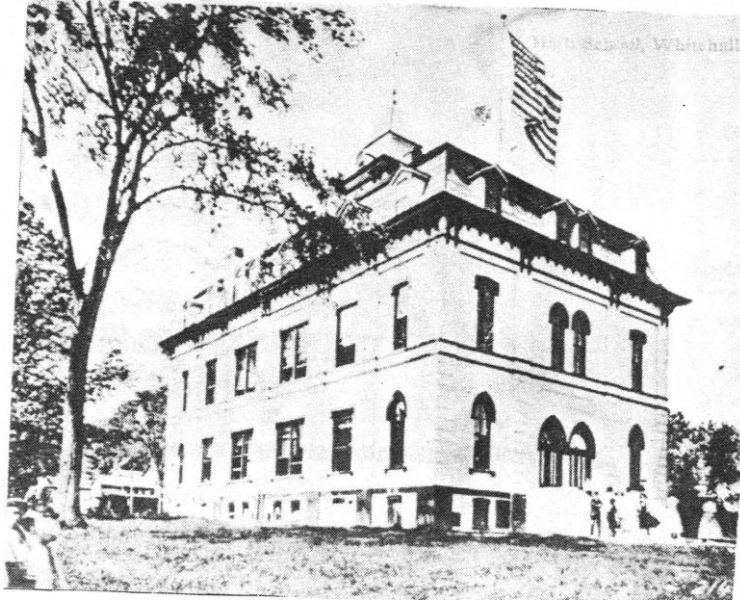
Normal School in Albany, the where she was graduated, and is likewise esteemed by her pupils and their parents here. Miss Gardiner won a high position before she was graduated a few years ago. It is not easy for an infrequent visitor to distinguish the pupils of the grammar school from those of the high school on all conditions. In both schools industry and dignity of deportment show that Professor Miller's authority prevails. Assisted by Miss Juliand, who has been here long enough to have been well tried and found valuable and true, and by Miss Anna Wright, a recent graduate, Mr. Miller causes the youth in his care to cultivate the mind, whether they wish to or not. That besetting sin of idleness and repugnance to getting knowledge, here finds a strong enemy. With the privilege of attending such a school, no young person can hereafter excuse himself for ignorance of the common branches. Clean, well lighted and warmed rooms, books, ink, stationery, teaching, all free? Who would have dreamed of such things ten years ago? Description of these schools must be inadequate. To realize their excellence people should go and see them.

"If you would see a first class primary school, you should visit Miss Law's on Adams Street" said a gentleman. Yes, it is "first class", and the others, Miss Jillson's and Miss Ross' at the "Bell School House"; Miss Howe's and Miss McAllister's on Wheeler Avenue are, also, excellent schools, as any one may see by visiting them.

With all the facilities for acquiring a good education offered in the graded schools, the library seems to have been forgotten. The superintendent has a valuable library in his residence, and the teachers have access to good libraries, but the old collection of odd books, hidden in the basement of the union school building, is antiquated. That Bancroft's history of the United States, Macaulay's history of England, Motley's, Presenot's, Irving's and Scott's works should be within the reach of the class in rhetoric, none will surely deny.

The Board of Education deserves much credit for the thorough performance of the labors which fall to the lot of its members. The president of the board seems as earnest in his work as he was ten years ago. His office, is doubtless, more laborious than the bank presidency and its financial reward is nothing, but the good accomplished by his work is immeasurable. His method of transacting business is quiet, and unpretentious, add to these qualities punctuality, energy, and generosity, and you have a model businessman, such as the colleagues of Mr. Martin say he is.

--Philo



The first library of the New Union Free School was composed of the volumes taken from the Whitehall Academy that was closed on Williams Street. The books could not have been very up-to-date.

The Whitehall Independent June 16, 1883

**May 15-19, 1883
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

A Teacher's Institute

Many teachers will remember the teachers' conventions that had to be attended in years past. Such a one was held in Whitehall for a whole week, May 15-19, 1893.

This paragraph from the Whitehall Chronicle would be unusual in describing a meeting today. "Our streets have been brilliant with companies of well dressed shapely women and have been rendered cheerful by the music of their well cultivated voices as the strains floated out from their sessions. They have charmed the town with their intelligence, their propriety, their self possession, and their easy acceptance and enjoyment of the entertainment prepared for them."

The week was one of social enjoyment with card parties, dances and lectures, but these did not detract from the legitimate purpose of the Institute. Attendance was compulsory; Monday's work was given to the topics of teaching and drawing. Tuesday's topics were school economy, drawing, reading and a spelling contest. For reading, they listened to their Professor, W. W. Howe, who invented the Phonic System of Reading. On Wednesday there were lectures on examinations and geography on Thursday, English language, arithmetic, and business methods; on Friday the address of State Supervisor of Schools, the awarding of prizes, and general business.

Evening entertainment was supplied in the form of a band concert, a college glee club, a grand ball at the Armory, and lectures. Book agents were in full force with their wares, for the teachers from Washington County, Warren County, Fair Haven, and East Poultney.

A list of Whitehall's teachers of 1893 reminds us of the familiar names we've heard through the years of school instructors. Kate Brown, Kittle Beckett, Kate E Brown, Anne W. Campbell, Franke M. Clark, May I. Combs, Edith A. Culver, Hattie G. Douglas, Celia A. Farren, Mary E. Flannery, Mary M Humphrey, Carrie E. Hendrick, Kittie Juckett, Cora J. Leonard, Flora I. Lester, Lula Lotrace, Hattie E. Lusk, Martha McAllister, Minnie Malan, Alice Matthews, Anna E. Mooney, Ella H. Nolan, Helen G. Owens, Marian M. Sanders, Nellie C Smith, Nina V. Stone, Pauline E Virgil, Clara E. Waterbury, Julia A. Wood.

The reporter wound up with this: "Whitehall is unassuming and has given precedence to the visitors. All the same when occasion requires she shows them Howe to do it and Combs them down if they get too Mooney. We have no hippodrome though we can exhibit a Campbell and never get out of harness though we have a Lotrace."

The Whitehall Independent
November 16, 1983

October 1883
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The schools in Washington County received various sums of money from the literature fund, under the control of the Regents. Whitehall received \$79.56. The highest was \$278.58 for Sandy Hill and the lowest, \$7.18 for Argyle.

The Whitehall Independent
November 20, 1983

November 1883
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The first meeting of the Washington County Teachers Association met in Fort Edward. Present were one hundred teachers to hear S. H. Babcock from Albany who presented a method of teaching science. It was a plain, practical way of teaching organic life in its different phases. There was a necessity to teach it. The program was being followed in other schools.

On Saturday, the topics were word method, script writing, language, and history. There was an earnest desire to learn to read.

The Whitehall Times
August 15, 1885

September 1885
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The academic department of Whitehall Union School was appointed by regents as one of the schools for the instruction of teachers' classes. It was organized 1 September 1885. The requirements for applicants were an elementary certificate, age between sixteen to eighteen years, and passage of a test at the close of the term in history, physics, needed only the signature of the commissioner of education. How times have changed!

The Whitehall Times
April 16, 1887

September 1887
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In 1887 also Father McDonnell had men at work on the Ames House arranging for its use as a school which would be opened about 1 September.

The Whitehall Times
January 8, 1887

1887
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

School 13 in the Kinner neighborhood was the scene of a religious meeting at which Methodist Reverend F. G. Rainey was the speaker.

Miss Lotrace's school cleared \$11 from a concert. The sum cleared the debt on the school organ. How many remember that not too long ago pupils were raising money for school supplies, books, and furniture?

The Whitehall Times

February 3, 1982

1890's

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The 90's In Whitehall School District 3 had the same expenses as former decades but a few new ones were added. With the collection of local taxes came the expense of collector's bond and insurance became a regular item. Teachers' salaries were still \$5.75 a week in winter and a dollar less in summer.

In 1892 the school obtained an outside flag with its pole. In 1897 there were maps added for instructional aids. In 1899 there was the expense of building fires. In many district schools in the 20's fires were still built by the teacher or an elder pupil.

For this decade the trustees were Almon S. Bartholomew, Charles P. Wood, George S. Douglass, and John C. Clark while the teachers were Rose A. Brown, Kate Heffernan, Harriet Douglass, Emerson N. Wood, Sara Johnson, Carrie McGrath, Sadie J. Spink, and John C. Brown.

Events in the first two decades of the 20's showed some differences. A new stove with pipe was purchased for \$13.35 and the old stove turned in for 75 cents. Tuition was paid for some pupils and received for others who came to the school new seats were added to the furnishings. Building the fire and sweeping now came under the heading of janitor and the cost doubled from \$3 to \$6.

In 1911 the district ended the year in the red, owing five cents to the trustee but it was paid the next year, and in that year eight rolls of paper were used to paper the school. In 1912 the school's part of teachers' retirement was added and in 1914 Dr. Dorvill began the yearly physical examination. He was followed by Dr. Joslin, Dr. Johnson and Dr. Guinan. The first bill was \$5.50. By 1918 the library came into prominence again and an accession book was obtained for them. In 1920 the teacher was reimbursed for convention expenses. By 1921 Miss Marjorie Micklejohn was district superintendent of schools and she ordered school supplies. A new expense was added for examination papers.

Trustees for these 20 years were George S. Douglass, Almon S. Bartholomew, Herbert A. Bartholomew, Henry H. Wood, Emory Clark, Mrs. Henry Wood, Willis E. Wells, W. Earl Coon, and W. H. Reed.

The teachers were J. C. Brown, R. N. Slocum, Edith M. Rose, Katherine E. Brown, Mattie E. Harvey, Marlon Collins, Daisy Hatch, and Ethel L. Kilburn.

The trustees' book ends in 1923, with totals only: Public money \$511.40; taxes \$560.64; expenses \$1061.06, with salary included of \$810.98.

Comparisons cannot be made with the present school as it contains the many district schools of Whitehall. One can dwell on the "good old days" when prices were low for both income and expense but what the "good days?" are.

The Whitehall Times
June 3, 1985

1898
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

What were the private schools in Whitehall? They seem to be conducted by women. One such was held by Grace Skeels which Minerva Osgood attended in 1898 before her death 7 March at eight years. Other known ones were Mrs. Dibbles School and the school for boys in Vaughans Hotel.

The Whitehall Times
March 13, 1975

1899-1990
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The 1899-1900 register of District 3, the area of East Whitehall, was given for our files by John Taft.

The site of the building was 4.59 by 4 rods and valued at \$75. The frame building itself was worth \$675 and the valuation of the property in the school district, real and personal, was \$35,411.80.

Mable Kingsley of Sandy Hill (Hudson Falls) taught seven pupils for 32 weeks for \$6.00 a week. Her total wages for the school year were \$192.00. School was in session 148 days but seven holidays and five teacher institute days made a total of 160 days. It was divided into three terms: 18 Sept. to 13 Dec.; Jan. to 13 March; 2 April to 12 June.

Two interesting vacation days were listed as Fair Day and Dewey Day. Fair Day is easy to understand but what was Dewey Day? Arbor Day in May was not a holiday but its observance was required, according to the annual report, and this year two trees were planted. Stormy days were labeled but school did not let out.

The district officials were: School trustee, A. S. Bartholomew; clerk, George Douglass; collector, George Searles; treasurer, Herbert A. Bartholomew, who was also a justice of the peace; and school commissioner, M. L. Ingalsbe. The truant officer was not named but he did not have to visit the school that year.

The census showed ten children between the ages of five and 18 in the district but two boys and one girl did not attend school. One was listed as attending school elsewhere. Families having their own children or others living with them were Wood, Douglass, Beckwith, Bartholomew, Stark and Cook. The school children's names were Claricy Stark, the only girl; William Wood, Eddie and Harold Ormandy, Clarence Bartholomew, Nathan Beckwith, and Eddie Moore.

Visitors signed the school register. Their presence often occurred on the last days of a term when there were exercises. These included Mrs. J. C. Ormandy (2), Mrs. Fannie Messenko (2), Rose A. Brown, Mrs. Gene Wood, Mrs. Herbert Bartholomew,

A. S. Bartholomew, Ruth Pratt, Ruth and John Hollister, Marie and William White, George White, Isaac Wood and M. L. Ingalsbe.

The register required the listing of text books, even to the number of pages covered. Only author names were given for the texts in reading, spelling, language, arithmetic, geography, drawing, physiology and history. The little district schools did more than teach the 3 R's, but there was no library.

The Whitehall Independent January 22, 1986

**September 14, 1900
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Whitehall had the services of Professor W. Howe in its school system the latter part of the nineteenth century. He invented the Phonic System of reading that became widely known and copied. In September 1900 the faculty of Ticonderoga came to our schools to study this system and class analysis. Other schools were making appointments. Mr. Howe printed his findings and traveled about explaining the method.

The Whitehall Independent June 22, 1983

**Examinations of 1901
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Its examination time again. As usual, so it seems, the weather has turned for the pupils writing their answers.

An examination paper for the Department of Public Instruction for 1901 is in the Research Library file. I wonder how many pupils of today would be able to answer these questions on subjects common at that time.

Penmanship was judged from the papers written on Geography. Problems in arithmetic:

1. Write a single number that is integral, simple, composite, and odd.
2. Reduce 60 rd. 2 ft. to the decimal of a mile (correct to four decimal places.)
3. An estate of \$150,000 is divided among legatees as follows: $\frac{1}{4}$ to a son; $\frac{1}{8}$ to a daughter; $\frac{1}{4}$ to the five children of a deceased son; $\frac{1}{8}$ to three children of a deceased daughter; and the remainder equally to three brothers and two sisters. How much should each receive?
4. A certain sum is invested in D & H R R stock at 168. A dividend of 5% declared on the stock at the end of a year is equivalent to what annual rate of interest on the investment?

Questions on geography:

1. Compare the climate of Oregon with that of New England, and state the reasons for the answer.
2. Compare the mountains of the eastern and of the western coast of North America with reference to a) size; b) extent; c) form.
3. Name a section of the United States where farmers are particularly troubled from a) lack of rainfall; b) river over-flows; c) worn-out soil; d) swamp lands; e) stony surface.
4. State approximately the a) latitude of the Hawaiian Islands; b) the distance and direction of these islands from San Francisco.

Drawing:

1. a) If tint of red be used as a key and modified to produce a scale of color, what part of the scale will be broken colors? b) When are colors said to be complimentary to each other?
2. Make a working drawing of an ordinary octagonal headed bolt. Diameter across corners $1 \frac{1}{4}$ "
3. Sketch to represent the upper corner of the room in which you sit.
4. Having located the base of an object in perspective, where thereon should the student work in raising a superstructure?

Directions for the examinations stated that the pupil should examine every question with care and fully answer it but should write no more than is necessary. Quantity will not be allowed as a substitute for quality. Commence every answer as a separate paragraph. In the solution of problems every process must be indicated; mere answers will not be accepted.

The Whitehall Times **May 28, 1987**

New Addition to School Was Hot Topic in '14 (1914) **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Editor J. T. Talford had a definite opinion of the prepared change in the Central School Building on Pierce's Knoll in 1914. A \$60,000 school building was the topic of the day. The board of education was divided. Some members wanted to investigate an addition to the school, as besides the \$60,000 there would be \$5-6000 needed to furnish and equip a new one. The congestion that had been in the schools months before had been relieved by many families having moved away from town. Mr. Talford believed if a new building were erected it should be in a different part of town. He said taxes were rising by leaps and bounds. An election of members of the board of education in 1914 resulted in having members chosen who were against the new building, so the voters thought. But on 6 May contracts were signed in Albany by the building committee for the "palatial" structure.

On 9 August Talford reported that the new \$60,000 school "was rising majestically to greet the taxpayers who will have to meet the bills." The foundation was of concrete. The building was faced on West Street where the main entrance would be.

The new building joined the old one. There was so much to do that it became a question if the high school would be open for the fall session. It wasn't.

The question now was where will the pupils find quarters? Contractors had been allowed to dismantle the old building and as a result there were no quarters ready for them. They would have to be housed in separate buildings around the village "All of which will cost the taxpayers a good round sum of money." The Messrs Cassey Brothers, contractors had secured a contract without a penalty clause for completion of the contract at a given time.

The board of education held several meetings of discussion. Mr. Campaigne, one of the contractors, said a portion of the new building could be used for school purposes if the work were rushed. Maybe school opening could be delayed a few days. Half day sessions were suggested. Maybe the Y.M.C.A. building could be secured. There was no Knights of Columbus building that replaced the old one north of Cooke Street that burned in 1911.

This was the plan followed at least for the older pupils. As some people of that period still remember. The Civic Improvement League had to wait until the school year was over before completing hospital arrangements in that building. The graduation of 1915 was held in the school auditorium, five women and two men. Town Topics on hand run to December 29, 1915 but not another word did Mr. Talford write about the school question.

The Whitehall Times September 26, 1985

Bits and Pieces 1922 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The woodshed of the school in North Whitehall School burned. Miss Catherine Woodford was the teacher. (School No. 8)

School No 8 included the northern part of the town and around the mountain under superintendent Rose Gibbons. She advised that School No. 8 end at the village line. This affected 80 to 90 children.

The board of education was presented with three plans for additional school facilities: 1. Remodel and repair the present old Central Building, giving an extra class room, \$25-30,000; 2. Add sixteen feet to the present building with an extra room and a larger basement to provide manual training and physical education rooms, \$50,000; 3. An addition would give seven more class rooms with manual training and physical training rooms, \$150,000.

The Whitehall Times
January 9, 1986

Bits and Pieces 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

School was to open 5 September with about 1200 pupils, 200 of them in the high school. For the first time six year olds with a birthday prior to 1 January 1923 would be accepted. For the first time also pupils on Saunders Street and north of it would attend Williams Street School for the first and second graders. This was because of the temporary repairs to Central building. The repairs were slow as it was hard to secure labor and many pupils would be on part-time. Washington County received five State scholarships that year and Whitehall had two of them - Frank Falkenbury and Charles Haskell.

The Whitehall Times
November 14, 1985

Bits and Pieces 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

At the Board of Education meeting 12 April the Board had to discuss how they were going to furnish the part time students with subjects that would benefit them. The part time committee of citizens made up of three women and two men had reported that agricultural and commercial subjects were not suitable for the boys that were in this type of training. The girls had already been supplied with domestic science (home-making) subjects. What the committee now suggested was a course in manual training for the boys. This is still a course in Whitehall High School.

The Whitehall Times
February 20, 1986

Bits and Pieces 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In October the activities of the many district schools in the area were listed as far north as Putnam and east to Hampton. School 13 was known as the Kinner District. It proudly reported that there had been no tardiness or absences for the week of 15 October of the pupils who attended were the families of Kinner, Balch, Hammond, Harris, Clark, Steves, Starks, Ryder. Clemons District 8 sold 144 pencils to purchase a six foot flag, a

new set of maps, and a blackboard. The teacher Leon Willis helped and Superintendent Marjorie Michelson spoke, after which dancing and a supper was enjoyed.

The Whitehall Times
February 13, 1986

Bits and Pieces 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

This was a familiar practice in district schools in the 1920 when something was needed, as many retired teachers can testify. There was a community effort in No. 8 Clemons School to raise money for necessary supplies and school room repairs and to couple it with a social time for parents, school officials, and pupils. This time a new chimney, murescoed walls, and windows and woodwork washed was accomplished in October 1922.

The Whitehall Times
February 27, 1986

Bits and Pieces 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Earlier teacher institutes were held for teaching teachers. On 24-25 November 1922 an Institute was held in Glens Falls High School for the area teachers. Instructors were from the office of the Commissioner of Education Dr. P.P. Graves. Whitehall teachers attended classes in biology, supervised study, and the work of junior high. Other sections dealt with grammar school and primary sections.

Teachers ending 27 October were given in percentages which ranged from 91 to 99. There were 1234 pupils registered in the schools. How many of these names are remembered? At the Elbow, Miss Beckwith; at Adams Street, Miss Davidson, Mrs. Sheehan; Williams Street, Miss Manville, Miss Douglas, Miss Barber, Miss Collins, Miss Schneider, Miss Bryan, Miss Spencer, Miss Northrup; Central, Miss Lotrace, Miss Powers, Miss Baker, Miss Wyman, Mrs. Johnson, Miss Knapp, Miss Parker, Miss Minogue, Miss Ahern, Miss Sheehan, Mrs. Pray, Miss Miller, Mrs. Barker, Miss Hogan; High School, Miss Carrigan, Mrs. Fagan.

The Whitehall Times
April 17, 1986

The Acropolis
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Recently the research library secured issues of the Whitehall High School paper that was published by the Class of 1927. The ten issues range from 14 April 1921 to 1 April 1922. No 4 is lacking for each of the two volumes, and there must have been some after the April 22 issue. The research library would be appreciative of having any of the missing issues to complete the file. So much information about Whitehall could be gathered from many old pictures, letters, newspapers and maps that are often thrown away as being of no value. The town and village historian is looking for such items. Inquire before they are sent to the dump.

The Acropolis was begun with Vol. 1 No. 1 on 15 April 1921, to be published semimonthly. Its general manager was Joseph Persk and the Editor was Charles Haskell with assistant Editor Frank Falkenbury. Associates were listed as: Sporting, William Inglee; Personal, Farrington Gunnison; and Society, Mary Archambault. In the second volume Advertising Manager was Violet Stiles; Circulation Manager, Adelaide Milano. Genevive Morgan became Assistant Editor while Frank Fralkenbury moved to Sporting. Elizabeth Ross became Alumni and Ethel Persk Jokes.

Later Ethel became Society and Elsie Collins was added for Literary. The paper obtained a class adviser, Miss Chaloner.

The aim of the paper was given in its first editorial. The Class of 1922 extends a hearty greeting to the students of Whitehall High school, members of the alumni, and towns people, who, we hope, will be patrons of "The Acropolis."

During the last few years Whitehall High has forged to the front with athletics victories. Our football and basketball record is something to be proud of, and our track team, which was a new venture last year, easily capturing the honors of inter-scholastic meet at Silver Bay. Let us now take our rank with other leading high schools in the publication of a school paper. There is a great deal of news in the line of education, athletics, and subjects of general interest which never finds its way into the local publications. A school paper will print all the news.

In general, the object of "The Acropolis" is to open an avenue for the expression of school sentiment and to offer an opportunity for the publicity of school work - literary, athletics, social. We will maintain an open door policy and invite contributions from students on all subjects. We hope to make everyone feel that this is his paper.

But of course, we realize that this is a big undertaking and that we must have your hearty cooperation before we can make it a success. We don't expect to get rich on this little paper, but we would like to get along. The least a loyal student can do is to subscribe to "The Acropolis" for the rest of the term.

For a few weeks the school history as published in The Acropolis will be put before you.

The Whitehall Times
April 17, 1986

The Acropolis
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

One of the suggestions in the first issue of the Acropolis for a better high school was a new library. The one on hand was described as very inadequate. It was small, poorly lighted and lacked magazines, books, and other reading material. Many students were constantly disappointed in not finding material for school work which should be in a well equipped library. The staff was suggesting that besides school; pupils business and housewives would find a larger and better library helpful.

Whitehallers who attended Whitehall Central will remember the first library in the school to be book shelves in the back of the English and history teachers' homerooms that had additional reading material for those courses. The "librarians" were Miss Louise Waite and Miss Helen Layden. From there the collections were put in the windowless, except for the small skylight, room between the two laboratories on the third floor. (There are some who can tell of candy making up there with escape through that skylight). From there the library graduated south to the chemistry laboratory and was contained there until removed (in burlap bags) to the new building on Buckley road. The school library has grown from a small collection of books to one that contains most of the necessary collections and technical apparatus necessary for the present age.

The Sports column in this first issue, since it was April, dealt with track. On 28 May there was to be a track meet at Silver Bay with pole vault, shot put, mile runs, high jump 880 yard run, running broad jump, 220 yard hurdle, 880 yard relay, and many lengths of dashes. The prizes were to be gold, silver, two bronze, and a ribbon. A loving cup would be given the team with the greatest number of points.

Fifty men had reported for training. In 1920 Whitehall had won the silver cup but it had to be won five times to be retained. Participants were named. A noted hurdler was Gunny (Farrington Gunnison?), the smallest man running who won in 1920. Vic (Lodovico Bolla?) was beaten in the longest jump unexpectedly by baggage master George (George Barker '23?). Ambrose Gilligan ('21), a miler, was to run at Vassar 29 April in the biggest race of the year and Whitehall had been invited to take part in a track meet at Union College. The Acropolis advocated having a girls' track team.

Other suggestions for the good of the school were to keep off the grass that was growing so nicely and some new window shades for the study. This was a continuing request for years afterward, especially for the rooms that faced the afternoon sun.

The annual prize speaking, contest was to be held 29 April. Miss Upson was giving individual instruction and Miss Marion Layden was training the Glee club for its appearance. Miss Maud Manville, a former teacher of public speaking, was offering two prizes for the 1922 contest.

The first issue of the Acropolis had to have, necessarily much filler but the business men were generous with advertisements and there were literary efforts by Farrington Gunnison on "Fishing" and Herman Waters "To the Ear of the Hunter" who glowingly described the birds one heard from a boat on Lake Champlain.

The Whitehall Times
April 17, 1986

The Acropolis 1921-1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

When Superintendent Laidlaw came to Whitehall he was determined to build high school sports back to the height it held in previous years. First he organized a football team. The members of the team were raw material. The first season was a complete victory in all games. He followed this with a basketball team that had the same success. Their pass work was considered the best in the area. The next year the football team won the championship of the northern section and furnished two of its members to St. Lawrence varsity, Lawrence Inglee and Graham Miller. The second year the basketball team also won the championship and tied with Saratoga to the south. In the spring of this year a track team was formed and won in the meet at Silver Bay.

In the year 1920-1921 Superintendent Laidlaw secured the services of Professor G. W. Miller to coach the boys. He was a three-letter man from Rochester University who succeeded in that training winning in football and basketball and working up in track. Henry Jillson was picked by the Knickerbocker Press of Albany for the first team in the minor league.

In April 1921 a testimonial dinner was given to the basketball team by the efforts of Andrew Calconi and Homer Martin. This may have been the first testimonial sports dinner. The townsmen had supported the athletics of the school and were represented at the banquet with talks by Dr. B .F. Carpenter (dentist), Dr. Pritchard, and businessman R. G. Hays.

Suggestions for the good of the school in April 1921 seem almost ludicrous today. One was an appeal to the "spangers" who did not purchase their textbooks, pens, pencils, or erasers to procure materials for their classes. The second one was for all to support the upcoming speakers contest, as the money secured was to be used to install shower baths for the athletes after practice and the great percentage of pupils who had no way whatsoever at home to take an adequate bath.

On Friday evening the contest that was to supply funds was the boy's preliminary speaking contest was held. Seven participants were William Swinton, Fred Young, Henry Cadone, Irving Falkenbury, Kenneth Van Tassel, Andrew Fountaine, and Frank Fallenbury. The judges were members of the clergy, Father Torpey of Our Lady of Angels, Reverend Dow of the Methodist Church, and Reverend Quinn of Trinity Church.

On Friday afternoon April 1921 the rhetorical were held with a play "Ring around the Roses," with actors Elfreda McNall, Herman Sachs, Rose Neddo and Joseph Persk. On that evening the girl's preliminary speaking contest was held. The twelve contestants were Gertrude Brownell, Beatrice Sullivan, Eleanor Inglee, Bernice St.Clair, Mary Archambault, Nora McCoy, Veronica Ryan, Violet Stiles, Anne Persk, Mary Walsh and Adelaide Milano.

The literary effort of this week was an Essay "Foreign Exchange" by Lodovico Bolla who became valedictorian of the class of 1921. The whole essay was printed and deemed a well researched paper.

A heated tennis tournament occurred. In the first game the juniors won easily but to their chagrin the seniors bested them in the second game.

A part time school had been started in September 1920. The pupils of the class, largely girls from the Champlain Silk Mills, were taught by Miss Quinlin and Miss Hanson of the Domestic Science Department as that department was called at the time.

The Whitehall Times

May 8, 1986

The Acropolis 1921

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

1921 was the year that the condition of Central Building came into focus. The editorial of 15 May of the Acropolis undertook to state the problem. The recent inspection of the school building described its dangerous condition. A walk on the auditorium floor (the study hall) caused a rattle on the floor below. Cracks could be seen in the eyebeams and fire hazards were pointed out.

The building was greatly in need of repair. It would seem that a new building would be much less of a cost than repairing the old. If the old were kept, the cost in repairs would be more than the cost of a new building.

The important question now was would the taxpayers support the extra expense of a new school. A few years ago they were outraged over the unnecessary size of the building. At that time the size was too large for the number of pupils; but now, after a few years, the school was overcrowded. The study hall was only large enough for the freshmen and the sophomores. The juniors were seated in the Latin classroom and the seniors in the English classroom, the French room, and the drawing room. The Latin classes were held in the Latin room and biology in the lecture room. Mathematics was held all over the school wherever a classroom was free. There was no gymnasium. The auditorium was used as such in winter but now the classes were held outdoors as the auditorium was not safe.

The board of education could not act without the consent of the taxpayer. These people were the parents of the pupils who were in danger. The parents could question the children about the condition of the school and they were welcome to inspect the building personally. Some issues of the Acropolis are lacking but the story will be continued from the ones on hand.

Another editorial of 15 May 1921 edition was a bit of advice to the pupils. It seems some new restrictions were placed on the student body. They concerned the use of vacant periods. Pupils in these periods had been taking walks outside the building, wandering about the halls, sitting out on the roof, and going out to a class in physical training. To control this lawlessness the faculty instituted a check system. (Does this sound familiar?) At the beginning of a period the teacher checked the roll, the pupil signed a slip signed by the teacher whose room he wanted to go to. At the end of the period the pupil returned the slip signed by the teacher whose room he had been in. The editorial suggested that this was the time for the pupils not to grumble about the system

as it was a fair one to both pupil and teacher. They should settle down and study for upcoming examinations.

The staff essay this week was "In Search of Knowledge" by Anne Persk. The path wound up a Hill of Learning, by high and low spots, meeting a variety of good and bad companions until Miss Intelligence was reached at the top of the hill.

"Come and learn about the wonderful little wonder, the silk worm" was an invitation, to the public at the High school 24 May. An exhibit of the Champlain Silk Mills had, been transferred from a large, exhibition in New York City in a Grand Central booth. It had been a joint effort of Japanese, Chinese, and Italian reelers to advertise the silk industry. Whitehalls were to have an opportunity to see a Whitehall industry from the silkworm egg to the finished product of silk cloth.

The Whitehall Times May 15, 1986

The Acropolis 1920-21 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The editors of the Acropolis for the school year 1920 to 1921 assessed its success and gave some facts about the high school. This year the school had the largest student in its history to date. The athletic teams maintained their ranks at a high level and the school had the advice of the best teachers since its foundation. The Acropolis was a financial success and would continue its publication in the next term. The editors said they had tried to keep to their stated aims: a truthful account in athletics, literary, and scholastic events. All the "knocks" had been in the spirit of fun. The plan for next year was an issue each month so that there would be time for preparation and putting out the paper.

This last issue of the year was Volume One Issue five, dated 2 July 1921. It dealt primarily with commencement time activities. The first occurrence was Baccalaureate service on Sunday 19 June in the First Presbyterian church with Professor Frank Cadey of Middlebury presenting the service. For many years on this occasion the choir at the service was composed of members of all the churches in the community. A large attendance was assured.

The second event was Class Day on 20 June. This year the seniors gave a program in the form of a funeral. The president of the class, Lodovio Bola, was the officiating clergyman with A. Gilligan, C. Barker, H. Bartholomew, and H. Sachs the pall bearers. Genevieve Morgan gave the junior response, and Ethel Packard and Last Will and Testament. The Senior gift to the school was a bust of Abraham Lincoln, accepted by Professor Laidlaw. An added feature was an art gallery in which each class member was portrayed. Following this "funeral" Dr. Foote, president of the Board of Education presented the eighth grade certificates.

The third event was Commencement held on 22 June in the Presbyterian Church. The Salutatorian was E. Wilma Fernette and Valedictorian was Justina Layden. Six of the members of the class gave orations with topics. "Stars and Stripes Forever," "The

New Education," "Status of Women," "Value of a Public Library," "The Boy and the Game," "The American Idea of Freedom." The speaker was Leon B. Winslow from the University of New York. Six prizes were awarded.

The fourth event was the Alumni Banquet of Thursday 23 June with 95 persons present. A program of readings and music was performed by alumni who happened to be members of the faculty, and the meal was served by the juniors. Kenneth Horton was toast master; Dr. Foote, president of the board of education spoke, president of the village Sullivan urged all to push the campaign for a new school. L. Bola pledged his support of the Class of 1921 to the school, and Mr. Ryan, an alumnus of the school, was the main speaker.

The last event was Junior Prom on 24 June, surprisingly enough. This was held in the school auditorium. Streamers culminating in a basket of flowers in the center ceiling, a soft drink booth, and fancy caps for the guests to wear were popular. The bursting of balloons and throwing of serpentine confetti was boisterous. Many people from out of town attended this successful dance.

Members of the Class were: Clayton Barker, H. Bartholomew, Lodovico Bola, Helen Carswell, Lorraine Carswell, E. Wilma Fernette, Eleanor FitzGerald, and Margaret Fraser.

Also Ambrose Gilligan, Justina Layden, Elfreda McNall, Edith Mathews, Ethel Packard, Miriam Sabourin, Herman Sachs and Josephine Steves.

The Whitehall Times May 22, 1986

The Acropolis 1920-22 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In a graduation program of the Class of 1921 was the name of a seventeenth graduate, Paul Collins. This name did not appear in the Acropolis issue that talked of graduates.

Volume 2 No. 1 of the Acropolis of the Class of 1922 appeared 26 September 1921. This first issue had information about sports. Henry Cadone, captain of Whitehall High School football team, wrote a message to the student body urging those able to report for football practice to do so in order that the coach might have the best material to choose from; telling the girls not to miss the games but to be on the side lines cheering the boys; and applying the same advice to the teachers.

The first football game of the season Whitehall lost to Edison Drafting school of Schenectady, 14-20. A. Gilligan made a magnificent field run; Rondeau kicked a goal; a fine pass was made by Swinton; and there was a significant catch by Long. There was a practice game valuable for teaching the boys to fight in heavy odds. The game was replayed in the paper, quarter by quarter. Gilligan and Sachs returned to school for a post graduate course.

The State Department congratulated Professor Laidlaw on the record made in June's examinations. Washington County had five State Scholarships and Whitehall's

students won two - Justina Layden and Wilma Fernette, the valedictorian and salutatorian of 1921.

The part time school was continued this year with a 36 enrollment. An assembly was planned for each Friday with a speaker on such topics as the care of the teeth by Dr. Carpenter, the work of the Civic League by President Mrs. Souter, savings and accounts by Banker Drake. The homemaking class was entertained at the Miller Store where proprietors Miller and George instructed them in the clothing of the fall season.

The school bank opened, again for the year. Last year's report said \$2905.29 had been deposited by 368 pupils in Central and Adams schools. Elected for the bankers this year were Ambrose Gilligan and Clarence Perry, with cashier Edwin Beckett and assistant cashier Martha Finch.

To encourage student participation in the Acropolis the staff offered monetary prizes for the best short story, the best poem and the best joke. Each had to be an original contribution.

The question of building a new school building was brought up again. The High school registration this year was 172, the largest since the school opened fifty years ago. The registration of the grades was 907 and the part time 36-38. There were only three home rooms besides the study hall. The registration of the grades was 907 and the part time 36-38. This class was all girls but next year all working boys would be added. Three companies had submitted plans for the school far with the departments of domestic science, manual training and a gymnasium added.

The Class of 1922 chose its officers: President Genevieve Morgan; Vice president Herman Waters, Secretary Frank Flakenbury, Treasurer Charles Haskell. Besides these the school had Henry Cadone as football captain and Ambrose Gilligan as manager. Cheerleaders were Beulah Benjamin and David Ross.

The Whitehall Times

May 29, 1986

The Acropolis

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In true newspaper style Volume 2 Number 2 of the Acropolis had ears: "We need a new school building and a seat for every child." Frank H. Wood submitted his report to the Whitehall Board of Education. It listed the reasons for the school building not being fit for school purposes. The brick building with wood floor and a mansard roof were of bad design and poor workmanship. The rear wall and main bearing cross wall had settled to the clay ground. The beams supporting the class rooms deflected into a curved span higher in the middle. The lower tier, first floor supports of the auditorium, had a corresponding deflection, having a hump. The roof was carried on badly designed wooden trusses and sagged in the middle and were greatly overloaded. The dormer windows, cornices, etc. were rotten or false and the disused chimney moved under a hand. The collapse of the building was quite probable. The bell on the roof should not be used, the unused chimney should be removed, and a steel truss should be put in the center of

the building. The use of the auditorium should be restricted to an assembly of not more than one class at a time and all marching should be discontinued. All rhythmic movement should be prohibited. Further use of the building is against the advice of the department. This must have been the time when the bell was placed inside central building at the top of the entrance steps and disappeared at the time of the wartime scrap metal drives.

Fuller and Robinson of Troy designed a plan that would aid dressing rooms and showers to the high school with additional rooms for manual training and domestic science. The present high school should be redesigned for the grades.

The student editorial listed these disadvantages. The school would be overcrowded with only eighteen pupils out this year and eighty pupils coming in. The classrooms were overcrowded and the pupils couldn't study nor do the teachers teach. Teachers did not have class rooms. There was no gym but physical training was mandated. In spring and fall the classes had to be outdoors as the gym had to be used for classes. There should be an auditorium. The school had a small set of encyclopedia but there was no place to put it.

Again there was a plea against the "walking" of pens, paper, notebooks, and erasers. Then too the newly varnished desks were being scratched with initials. Also a warning was issued that school was a place of learning, not shooting crap.

The report of prizes offered for the betterment of the paper showed one submitted for a short story and one for a poem but none for a joke. Herman Waters wrote an essay on "The Hunting Fever" Helen Fernette, "The Race," a short story; but the poem was not printed.

The school bank was flourishing and parents were systematically saving funds for pupils' college education. Football games were won with nearby schools of the same size but the team lost to Glens Falls. A boys bowling team was contemplated.

Homeroom attendance was recorded by 28 teachers, all within 90 percent. The High school ones were Miss Chalonder, Mrs. Pagan (Neva), Mr. Ogden.

The Whitehall Times

June 5, 1986

The Acropolis

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Volume 2 Number 3 was dated December 1921. Basketball season was in full swing. Basking in their two championship games of last year and in the fact of a carryover team, the editors urged wholehearted support in attendance. They vowed that the cheering would improve the work of the team. Professor Miller was praised for his coaching and the "raw material" of thirty out for the practice was a good sign for the future.

Whitehall felt insulted when Granville provided two State Troopers at the game of 5 November in that school.

In the twenties a girls' basketball team was popular in many schools. Whitehall High had such a team. In 1921-1922 it was composed of Captain B. Benjamin, H. Steves, G. Sachs, A. Persk, and R. Neddo. Many anecdotes were told from this later by this group.

The seniors were defeated by the freshmen in two out of three games of bowling. William Swinton was elected captain of next year's football season. For three years he had made position on the team. Never before had anyone played more than three years and made the team each year.

The essays for this issue were written by Bernice St. Clair, '24 'Truth' and Helen Fernette '23, "Saving America."

The ears for the paper this issue were "We need a new school building" and "A sea for every child." The people of Whitehall were urged to vote 12 December on whether or not \$225,000 would be used for alterations and additions to the Central building. Qualifications for voting were listed.

Professor A.J. Laidlaw instigated the formation of a Parent-Teacher Association. Invitations were sent out and one hundred townspeople and teachers responded. The formation of the organization was described as linking the home and school more closely, assisting in such projects as health, adequate building and cooperation among teachers, school officials, homes and board of education. Elected officials were President G. R. Gibson, Vice president Mrs. James Sullivan and Secretary-Treasurer M. F. Daniels. The slate was made by Dr. Carpenter, Miss Alens Manville and Mrs. Nelson fagan. The next meeting, 6 December, was to have a discussion on the proposed new building, voting on which would be 12 December.

The Interscholastic contest in public speaking was to be continued. The final ten contestants, boys, would appear at Columbia University. They would be chosen at local level contests. Whitehall's district was Albany. Their speeches were to be original. Prizes were to be cash and the winner would have a year's scholarship at Columbia University.

The Redpath Chautauqua was coming to Whitehall with an entertaining and informative series.

Does anyone have Acropolis Volume 2 Number 4 that can be added or copied for the files?

The Whitehall Times June 19, 1986

The Acropolis 1922 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Editorial comment in Volume 2 Number 6 of 4 March 1922 was on fire drills in Central Building. The back of the building was considered a firetrap. The need for well organized drills was great for the floors and sides of the old building made of soft pine was as dry as paper. The floor of the auditorium floor was well oiled frequently and if a

fire started there in the back of the buildings the old part would be in flames in a few seconds.

The exits were inadequate. Another exit on the north side would be a deterrent to panic. Congestion in spots and disorder in marching and running should be avoided. To avoid panic in case of fire a new set of rules was perfected and should be followed.

Petty thievery was still a problem. Anyone leaving anything of value on his desk was considered foolhardy. A count of hands showed that 75 percent of the pupils had suffered losses of pens, pencils, and paper. All pupils were urged to report immediately so that the suspect person could be questioned and perhaps searched.

A glee club was considered as important as football and basketball and should be regarded as such. Every senior girl was a member of the club. It was up to the girls to get behind the glee club and give Miss Layden some real support. She considered the senior girls among her best workers. The Class of 1922 was always known as an exceptional class and one of 100 percent in attendance, but the other classes were poor in representation. No juniors were enrolled and the sophs and frosh were few in number.

In sports the Whitehall girls beat the Ticonderoga girls in a rousing game in Ticonderoga with a score of 23 to 17. Beulah Benjamin accounted for 16 of the 23. Saratoga won over Whitehall in basketball and had the chance of being in the finals. Hudson Falls also won but with a 21 to 20 score. The players were Young, St.Clair, Manell, Jillson and Rondeau.

The rhetorical of this year were considered the best to date. Since it was near the February birthdays the pieces selected were about Abraham Lincoln. Elsie Collins, William Swinton, Mary Walsh, Corinne McNall, Eva Archambault, and George Barber took part in poetry and recitations.

This edition of the Acropolis had articles by several of the pupils. Robert H. Carpenter researched Whitehall in the Revolution; Ruth Wilson wrote on the significance of bells; Ethel Manell traced Washington's connection with the French; Jean Mathews told of the world's debt to France; and Martha Finch extolled the value of the encyclopedia. An editorial feature was a column on the historical importance of February.

The exchange of school papers numbered twelve with two from New Jersey, three from Vermont, one from Mass., and the rest from nearby New York schools.

A classroom playlet showed the proficiency of some of the French pupils in that language. "The entire scene was in French and with no hesitation whatsoever on the part of the actresses" who were Mlle. Anne Persk, M. Kenneth Van Tassel, and Mlle. Bernice St.Clair. The saleslady Persk described a variety of hats to the customer St.Clair assisted by Van Tassel. When the price of the chosen hat was revealed, the customer fled in consternation.

The Dirty of a Senyer and the Dirty of a Freshman was presented in a humorous vein with comments on happenings in a day in school. However the name or names of the author or authors were not given. Perhaps some reader will have his memory stirred in recall.

The Whitehall Times
July 3, 1986

The Acropolis 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Taking Ambrose's word that persons mentioned in the Acropolis would not be offended I called some of the items the Class of 1922 thought amusing.

Vic made the longest jump of the year for Helen but was beaten out by the noted baggage master, George.

Francis recently donned long jeans, some good looking kid in his Larkin soap order pajamas.

Wilma to Vera: Why are you so anxious to dance? Because Ambrose will want to sing if we don't.

Don't it beat the duce how popular Tommy is getting since he got his "Fierce Sparrow?"

Gunny has succeeded in finding the Rose of Summer.

What a delightful year this will be for Veronica. Hoddy is in the senior room.

Frank F. will probably be tarred and feathered if he goes to another senior dance alone.

Why women walk so slow -The slower they walk the more that they can talk.

The Acropolis was financed somewhat by advertisements from the merchants. There is something fascinating about trying to find where businesses were located and how they change. How many in this list can you find that are still in business or that you remember? Some check points may make it easier to locate the place of business at that time. Henry Neddo was at 4 North Main. Sidur's Jewelry was at 54 Main, just before the railroad track crosses. Merchants Bank was at 34 Main. Main Street extended from Barbers Clothing all the way down to the end of present Broadway in 1922. I checked some of the addresses in the 1927 directory. Even then some of the businesses had disappeared.

Dentists: N.E. Foote D.D.S. 15 Main; B.F. Carpenter, D.D.S. 34 Main; W.H. Bouchard D.D.S. 60 Main. Drug Stores: J.J. Lusk's Pharmacy 46 Main; Boyd Drug 17 Main; Phillips & Hamelin, 2 Williams.

Banks: Merchants National 34 Main; National Bank of Whitehall 45 Main.

Newsrooms: Fisher's ?; Douglas 59 Main. Barber Shops: Matte's, Division; Milano's 115 Main.

Shoes: M.E. Barker, Main; Joseph Grady, Shoe repair, 87 Main. Bakery: L.J. Comeaii (Sally Ann) 8 Main; Excelsior, 120 Main.

Confectioners: J.N. Sabo 49? Main; Tony Fortino, 129 Main; O.J. Benjamin, 127; William Micos, ? Whitehall Candy Kitchen, ? Main.

Jewelers: Sachs, 6 Williams; A. Sidur, 54 Main. Hardward: James Doren's & Sons, 35 Main; Falls & Annable, ?.

Clothing: D. Furbush, 17 Saunders?; Millers Ready to Wear, 80 Main; I. J. Persk, 134 Main; Bascom & Brett.

Others will follow..

The Whitehall Times
July 10, 1986

Old Businesses Have New Names
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Acropolis

These are the other stores that advertised in the Acropolis during its existence in 1921 and 1922. Not all addresses were given.

Groceries, Dry Goods, Provisions, Meats: S. K. Griswold, 8-10 Williams; Henry Neddo, 4 North Main; George G. Nichols & Son: Arthur Epstein; Martin's; Swan Market, 79 Main; Sanitary Market; F. Barberis, 50 Main; J. E. Beckett, 78 Main; Grangers Market, 1 North Williams; Mrs. J.E. Paro, Williams; Wolfe's Meat Market; W. D. Harrigan, Dry Goods, 39 Main.

Miscellaneous: Phillips Music Store; Arlington Hotel, J. Rafferty, 165 Main; F. J. Blanchard, Plumber, opposite the fire station, Main Street; Allen's 5, 10, 25 cent Store, 10 Main; Whitehall Lumber Company, 26 Main; J.E. West Photographer, 16 Williams; L.C. Coal Company, "The Line" 34 North Main; Dennison, Sporting Store, Times Building, Arlington Garage 148-150 Main; John P.M. McGowan, confectionary 91 Main.

Women's: Mrs. S.C. Mahan, embroider and Yard, Main; Stafford and Fontaine, Millinery, 29 Main.

How many did you remember? These are ones still in business but many under other names. Merchants National Bank, now Key Bank; Sach's Jewelry; Boyd Drug Company after going through other owners names; Arlington Hotel now The Hotel; L. C. Coal Company; Henry Neddo, now Chase's; Bascom Brett and Company, now Barber's.

Now a couple items to finish up the Acropolis.

High School - A progression

The Freshmen - I don't know whether I like this place or not.

The Sophomore - It's a good place but I hate to go back to this grind.

The Junior - I'm almost glad to get back. It's a peach of a place.

The Senior - Gee! What a wonderful place! Say, I'm going to hate to leave it.

The Grad - The most wonderful, four years of my life! It's some old school!

School Fever Hi Herman Sachs

When your mind begins to wander

And your feet begin to stray,

With the springtime calling yonder

Oh, how you hate to stay.

The teachers, they have got it too,

And make you work like Ned;

They pile the work upon you

Until you wish that they were dead.

But when you reach the wide outdoors

And long school hours are over,

You wouldn't trade your heritage

For half a million dollars.

Ships

The Whitehall Times

July 1, 1976

First United States Fleet

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

On July 4, 1976, the first observance of the building of the United States Fleet at Skenesborough will be the launching of a ship in the canal at Skenesborough Museum Park.

"Eight gundelos and four row galleys were constructed in Skenesborough Harbor during the summer of 1776" is a bare bones statement. The details of the strenuous effort could fill volumes. It seems a miracle, in the face of the obstacles encountered, that such a fleet was completed for action on 11 October.

Records of men concerned with the action give the size of the fleet at various times during the summer, a sort of time table of its growth.

On 1 January 1776 the fleet consisted of sloop **Enterprise** and five schooners: **Liberty, Royal Savage, Revenge, Hancock, Schuyler**. The last two were not mentioned after 19 June when many American ships were destroyed at St. Johns on the retreat from the Canadian Campaign.

On 31 May the first ship carpenters arrived at Skenesborough to build, launch and send to Ticonderoga for outfitting what ships they could. According to records ships so built had reached the fleet on Lake Champlain on these dates:

5 August gundelos **New Haven, Boston, Providence.**

6 August gundelo **Spitfire.**

20 August gundelo **Philadelphia.**

23 August gundelo **Connecticut.**

6 September gundelo **Jersey**, cutter **Lee.**

11 September gundelo **York**, at first named **Success.**

26 September row galley **Trumbull.**

6 October row galleys **Washington** and **Congress.**

10 October row galley **Gates** too late for action with the fleet at Valcour.

The time lag is shown with the first gundelo **New Haven** on the stocks by 12 June, finished at Skenesborough 24 June, partially equipped at Ticonderoga 1 July, almost ready for the fleet 31 July, and had joined 5 August. **Cutter Lee** was assembled from parts brought from St. Johns 18 May 1775. The assembly began 18 July 1776 but the cutter did not reach the fleet until 6 September. The first row galley was on the stocks by 30 July and reached the fleet 26 September.

Ship carpenters and regular carpenters came to Skenesborough from Albany, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts . This accounts for the naming of the gundelos.

"There were giants" in those days is an expression that may be applied to the men who struggled in this venture. The names of the generals are well known but the lesser officers should have a place in the sun also. A few were Captain Cornelious Wynkoop, in charge of all the building at Skenesborough; Captain Richard Varick, who collected materials; Colonel Baldwin, who had the command of the ship carpenters; Capt. Bayze Wells who worked on the Providence and Lee specifically. There are others who should be researched for their part in the history of the first United States fleet, the lesser men who did the actual work of construction and guidance.

Note: The following article by Ms. Morton appears in the same July 1, 1976 Whitehall Times and is therefore included here. (kb)

Ethnic Origins of Whitehalls

Whitehall's history has been traced often with transportation development as the main theme. With this theme also the ethnic character of its citizens can be traced.

Settled in 1759 by Philip Skene at the head of Lake Champlain, its population was composed of many English, some Irish and some Dutch. The lists of 1773 inhabitants list Scotch; McFerren, Irish; Boyle, English; Fuller. Skene's list of tenants adds many English names, for veterans of the early wars were settling in the region and settlers were coming from the eastern seaboard colonies — Jones, Wright, Bartholomew, Stockwell, Burroughs.

The advent of the canal in 1819 brought the French population, many of whom settled Around the Mountain, at one time known, as the French Village, and at the Elbow. These were the boat builders and the carriers of produce, for many owned their own boats and traveled the canal and waterway between St. Johns and New York. The French names added about this time were Godau, Flandreau, Gulley, O'Reilly and Neddo. Later when the silk industry became a thriving industry others came — Manville, Shambo, and Manell.

The next transportation event was the railroad that came in 1848. This advent brought Irish workers, not so much as builders of the road as people who saw the advantages of business in a booming town with its business section laid along the canal front: Waters, Corbett, O'Brien, Roche, and Hogan.

The extension of the railroad north in 1873 brought new nationality to Whitehall, that of the Italian. Again it was not the construction work alone as it was the commercial opportunities as house construction, bakeries, gardening and store keeping. The names became Seymour, Scrimo, Ross, Young, Sartario, and Fusco in this segment.

The backbone industry of Whitehall has always been farming and the family names of Kinner, Bartholomew, Wood continued over the years from the 18th century. In the 1880's and 1890's immigration from Europe was heavy and that affected Whitehall and Hampton in recipients of the Bohemian population, chief among them the Vladyka and Lipka and later Golumbeski and Pinkowski.

But Whitehall cannot be said to be English, Irish, Italian or Bohemian. It is now a mixture of these ethnic groups with a proud heritage for the cultural roots of the community

The Whitehall Times **September 30, 1976**

Row Galleys of 1776 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Two hundred years ago today, 20 September 1776, the Row Galley **Trumbull** joined the fleet of the first United States Navy at Valcour.

With the anniversary of the Battle, of Valcour 11 October 1776 soon to be celebrated with a reenactment at Valcour and an exhibit in Plattsburgh, other details of this first fleet come to mind. One can but marvel at the stamina and the resourcefulness of the personnel on these ships, especially when one reads the frustrated cry of Benedict Arnold from Valcour 1 October to General Gates, "I hope to be excused (after the requisitions so often made) if with five hundred men, half naked, I should not be able to beat the enemy with 7,000 men, well clothed, and a naval force, by the best accounts, near equal to ours."

He did not take into account also the **Inflexible** which the British had built. Again he said, "A great part of my seamen and marines are almost naked. The weather has been very severe for some time . . . we have continued gales of wind."

Arnold at this time was waiting for the three galleys that were being rigged. He had chosen Valcour Bay for his stand against the contemplated enemy attack: "This is a good harbor and if the enemy venture up the lake it will be impossible for any of them to escape; if we are worsted, our retreat is open and free; in case of wind, which generally blows fresh at this season, our craft will make good weather where their batteaux cannot keep the lake."

Arnold had been placed in command of the fleet on 20 July 1776. He decided that the larger row galleys had more maneuverability than the gundelos and they were the best and cheapest ships to build. On his visit to the Skenesborough Shipyard 22 July the preliminary work on row galleys was started. But because of insufficient timber and the lack of iron the work was slow. On 7 August he gave orders to build no more gundelos and to concentrate on the row galleys. One row galley was sent to Ticonderoga to be rigged and the other three were planked by 14 August but there were no supplies and carpenters became ill.

One could wish for some diary details that would tell what happened, or didn't happen, at Skenesborough and Ticonderoga this August and September. Two other galleys were launched 8 September and 11 September three were reported at Ticonderoga waiting to be rigged. There was no cordage (what was on hand was rotten). Congress ordered Poughkeepsie to send cordage to the north but the officers there refused. Arnold asked even that all efforts be put upon one ship at a time so he could have reinforcements. Gates blamed the iron makers.

But at last **Trumbull** sailed to reach the fleet 30 September. Congress and Washington sailed from Ticonderoga 3 October and reached the fleet within an hour of each other, 6 October. Gates was still at Ticonderoga 2 October being 7 outfitted. She sailed from there, too late to be in the battle but joined the first five vessels as they fled up the lake to Crown Point 13 October.

The origin of the names for these row galleys can easily be seen: **Washington**, for the commander of the American Army; Congress, for that body; **Trumbull**, for Governor Jonathan Trumbull of Lebanon who strove so hard to supply the materials from New England; **Gates**, for the general who was in command at Ticonderoga during this season.

The Whitehall Times September 11, 1980

Fate of Arnold's Navy Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

"Adirondack Life" of September/October, 1980, contains an article by Russell Bellico: "The Search for Arnold's Navy."

Research on this topic by many historians has been diligent over the years. Primary sources from various points of view of the writers have to be compared and evaluated — an arduous task.

In the in article in The Whitehall Times, 1 July 1796, "Ships of the First United States Navy," I relied on the work of two such men who had spent well over ten years each and separately in their search. One did not have time to put his work in manuscript form; the, other has the material in a manuscript for a fictional biography of Benedict Arnold. Repetition of history related to Whitehall can do no harm, I think, and may reach new readers so they may know our town's historical heritage. Mr. Bellico's account, adds new details to the story of the first fleet, especially in the account of his search in the waters of Lake Champlain.

This is a summary of the fate of our first navy from the Battle of Valcour, 11 October 1776:

ROYAL SAVAGE, schooner, was beached by the Americans, taken by the British and burned at Valcour. It was salvaged in 1934 by Capt. Hagglund and according to Mr. Bellico what is left of it is now on Long Island.

PHILADELPHIA, gondola was so holed in the battle that after it she sank straight down with mast still standing. She was salvaged in 1935 by Capt. Hagglund and now is in the Smithsonian Institution carefully preserved.

BOSTON, Gundelo, capsized in a storm near Schuyler Island 12 October.

JERSEY, gundelo, was so damaged there was no time to repair it, and she was sunk but was raised by the British and used for many years.

LEE, cutter, was run to shore by her crew in Split Rock Bay from where the British took her.

WASHINGTON, row galley, was overtaken by the British and captured.

CONGRESS, row galley, was put into Buttonmold or Arnold's Bay 13 October to escape capture and burned by Arnold and his men. At the same time gundelos **CONNECTICUT**, **PROVIDENCE**, **SPITFIRE** and **NEW HAVEN** were fired also. The British did some salvaging at the time but most of these ships were left to be destroyed by souvenir hunters in later years though **CONGRESS** hull is stored near Ausable Chasm. **NEW YORK (SUCCESS)**, gundelo, loaded with ammunition blew up and burned before the Americans fled from Ticonderoga 5 July 1777.

LIBERTY, Schooner, **TRUMBULL**, row galley were captured by the British in Skenesborough harbor 6 July 1777 when **REVENGE**, schooner, **GATES**, row galley, and **ENTERPRIZE**, **SLOOP** were set afire there and sank near Wood Creek Falls. Pieces of these were removed when the Champlain Canal was set over into Wood Creek 1907 to 1912.

The ships captured by the British, **LEE**, **JERSEY**, **WASHINGTON**, **TRUMBULL** and **LIBERTY** were used by them for many years but were allowed to deteriorate by 1784. **LIBERTY** was in bad condition at dockside in 1789.

In the Navy Room of Skenesborough Museum is a plank believed to come from the **ROYAL SAVAGE** as it was picked up at Valcour. Some objects made from the Wood of the ships at Wood Creek Falls are on display. There are models there also of the types of ships sailed in our first United States Navy.

The Whitehall Times **February 24, 1972**

USS Enterprise **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

United States Naval history is a part of Whitehall's history. Skenesborough Museum is again a recipient of a gift from Captain Malcolm E. Vail of the Naval Amphibious Base, Coronado, Calif. --a plaque on which is the emblem of the Big E, the name by which the **USS ENTERPRISE** is affectionately known.

The Big E is the eighth naval ship with the name **ENTERPRISE**. The first one is part of Skenesborough history. To give its story we'll repeat our history. Skenesborough was captured by the Americans 9 May 1775. This capture included the schooner **KATHARINE** which Benedict Arnold's men took 11 May down Lake Champlain to Crown Point and converted to a warship. A few days later these sailors and marines with Benedict Arnold sailed to St. John where they knew a British ship to be. If she were not captured, the Americans would not have control of Lake Champlain, which the British in Canada threatened.

On 18 May this capture took place and the first British warship captured by an American warship became known as the **ENTERPRISE**. She was a 70-ton sloop which Arnold took to Crown Point and fitted with 12 long 4-pounder carriage guns and ten swivels. On the return trip to Crown Point Arnold made out the first naval pay roll which lists the sailors and marines of this first navy of the United States. This payroll is in the national archives.

The **ENTERPRISE** became a part of the small force that patrolled Lake Champlain during the summer of 1775.

In 1776 when the United States navy, which Benedict Arnold had been ordered to produce, was being readied in Skenesborough harbor, the **ENTERPRISE** was one of the ships to be refitted. She took part in the battle of Valcour Island and was one of the ships to escape and reach Ticonderoga where she did guard duty the remainder of the year.

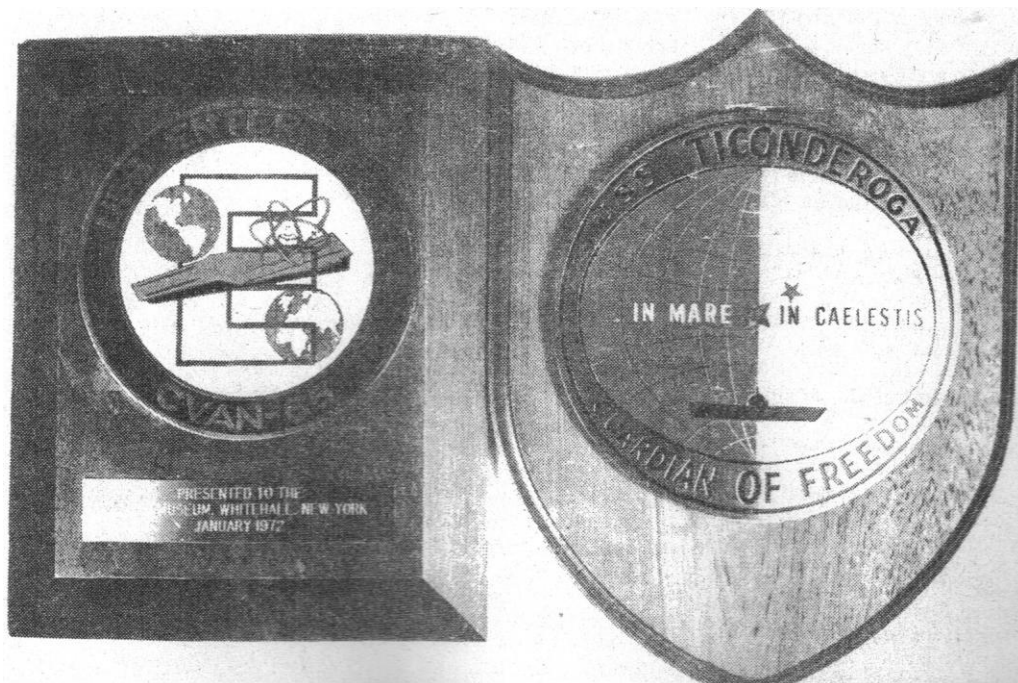
In July 1777 when the American forces withdrew from Fort Ticonderoga, the **ENTERPRISE** was one of the five American naval ships that evacuated the sick and took ammunition and provisions to Skenesborough Harbor. The British ships followed on their heels and on 7 July a short spirited battle took place in the harbor. Galley **GATES** and schooner **REVENGE** were blown up, galley **TRUMBULL** and schooner **LIBERTY** were captured, and the sloop **ENTERPRISE** burned. This is the story of the first **USS ENTERPRISE**. Edward Farmer included this ship in the shipyard model that is in Skenesborough Museum.

In his letter Captain Vail said, "I think it only fitting that the naval museum find a place to display this plaque, which perpetuates the first ship so named."

The captain of the present **USS ENTERPRISE**, Captain Gene Tissot, supplied information of the other ships of that name and a description of the plaque which I shall summarize later.

The Whitehall Times March 2, 1972

USS Enterprise (continued) Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



Since some readers have wondered how the plaque of **USS TICONDEROGA** looks, the accompanying picture shows it and the plaque of **USS ENTERPRISE** as well.

The emblem of the new Big E is interpreted as follows: "The outer circle, utilizing the Navy colors of Blue and Gold, encloses a gold outline 'Big E' which was the traditional nickname of the renowned aircraft carrier of World War II, **USS ENTERPRISE (CV-6)**. As the world's largest ship, **ENTERPRISE (CVA (N) 65)**, proudly reaches into past tradition to adopt this nickname, confident that it will live up to the traditions of service and duty that the "Big E" symbolizes.

"Over the upper left hand section of the outlined 'E' is an overlay of the circular part of the globe showing the Western Hemisphere, home waters for **ENTERPRISE** and the United States Navy.

"In the lower right hand section of the 'E' and covered by part of the golden outline, is another circular section of the globe showing the Eastern Hemisphere, symbolizing that **ENTERPRISE**, with her aircraft, can cover any part of the world.

"Emerging through the center of the 'E' is an aircraft carrier with a nuclear emblem surrounding the island structure to indicate the nuclear capability and power that **ENTERPRISE** contains."

These two plaques will be in Skenesborough Museum together with pictures of the ships and information about the officers serving on them. It would be good to know if any area servicemen served on these ships.

The second **ENTERPRISE** was in 8-gun schooner of 25 tons, with a crew of 60 men. Granted a letter of marque commission from the State of Maryland, she made a remarkably successful cruise (June-December 1776) under the command of Captain James Campbell. **Enterprise** was purchased by the Committee of Secret Correspondence of the Continental Congress and initially served chiefly in convoying transports in Chesapeake Bay. She was also active in reconnoitering the enemy's ships and preventing their tenders and barges from getting supplies from the shores of Maryland and Virginia, it is not known how her career ended. The first two **ENTERPRISES** were in the Revolution.

The third **ENTERPRISE** was in the quasi-war with France, the war against Tripoli, and the War of 1812. The 12-gun schooner, 84 feet long, was first under the command of Lieutenant John Shaw. In 1779 he joined a squadron under the command of Commodore Thomas Triton in the frigate **CONSTELLATION**. She recaptured 11 American merchant-men and took seven French privateers. During the war against Tripoli she was in the Mediterranean, Lieutenant Stephen Decatur, Jr., her officer for a time. Rebuilt as a 16 gun brig in the War of 1812, she took as one of her prizes the British 14-gun brig **BOXER**. **ENTERPRISE** three finished her service in the Gulf of Mexico; here she patrolled against pirates, smugglers, and slavers including the notorious Jean Lafitte. She ran ashore and was lost on Little Curacao in the West Indies on July 9, 1823.

The Whitehall Times
March 9, 1972

USS Enterprise (continued)
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Fourth **ENTERPRISE** was a schooner build in the New York Navy Yard, launched in 1831 with Lieutenant Samuel W. Downing in command. She joined the Brazil Squadron and then made a cruise around the world in 1835-36. She was sold out of the Navy in 1845, being in naval service 14 years.

Fifth **ENTERPRISE** was launched in Portsmouth, N.H. in 1874. She was bark-rigged, 185 feet in length. This ship had 35 years in service before she was sold in 1909. One of the fastest and most efficient vessels then on the North Atlantic Station, she sailed 12 knots under steam. During 1878 she was used in surveying 1330 miles up the Amazon and Maderia rivers in South America. After this she was a part of the European Squadron and in 1882 became a unit of the North Atlantic Squadron. In 1883 she was changed to the Asiatic Squadron, going by way of Good Hope. She cruised along the eastern coast of Africa. On the trip around the world with **Sigsbee** and Sir William Thompson's deep water sounding apparatus on board, **ENTERPRISE** made important discoveries: Submarine peaks in the South Atlantic, an extensive sandbank several hundred miles from the coast of South America, and the deepest depression up to that time north of the Virgin Islands. After this cruise she was refitted and sent to the European Squadron, 1887-90. In 1891 she became a training school for the Naval Academy at Annapolis and was sold out of the Navy in 1909.

Sixth **ENTERPRISE** was a motor patrol craft purchased in 1910. She served in the Second Naval District in 1917 and performed harbor duties as a tugboat in Newport, R.I., and inside the breakwater. In 1919 she was transferred to the Bureau of Fisheries.

Seventh **ENTERPRISE** (CV-6) was built in Newport News and launched in 1936, sponsored by Mrs. Claude A. Swanson, wife of the Secretary of the Navy. When commissioned she was manned by 87 officers, 1447 men, and four-squadron Air Group. **ENTERPRISE** was returning from delivering Marine Corps fighters to Wake Island when the Japanese attacked. She earned 20 Battle Stars, a Presidential Citation, and a Navy Unit Commendation through these activities, among others: Being the flagship of both Vice Admiral Halsey and Vice Admiral Spruance; accompanying **HORNET** on the Doolittle Raid against Tokyo; taking part in the battles of Midway and Santa Cruz; supporting the landings of Guadalcanal and Tulagi; pioneering night air operations; being struck by Kamekaze planes off Okinawa. She was stricken from the navy list in 1956 and scrapped in 1958, 20 years from the time she was commissioned.

Eighth **ENTERPRISE** is the world's first nuclear-powered attack aircraft carrier. She is the biggest warship in the world. Built at Newport News and launched in 1960, she is 1123 feet long and 257 feet at the flight deck. Her compliment is 400 officers and 5,000 enlisted men. She really is a floating city. Can you imagine 16,000 meals a day?

Attack Carrier Air Wing Fourteen, composed of nine squadrons, is presently embarked aboard USS **ENTERPRISE**. CVW-14 has deployed aboard USS **RANGER**, **ORISKANY**, **LEXINGTON** and **CONSTELLATION**.

The captain of USS ENTERPRISE is Ernest Eugene Tissot, a native of California. In 1967 he became the third U.S. Naval aviator to achieve 1,000 arrested carrier landings without accident. He became commanding officer of Big E in December, 1971.

The executive officer of **USS ENTERPRISE** is Carol Castleman Smith, Jr., a native of Alabama. He was designated executive officer in 1970. He flew more than 100 combat missions in Vietnam.

This in brief is the story of the ships, descendants in name of the first United States Navy ship that plied Lake Champlain and is in the history of Whitehall.

The Whitehall Independent November 28, 1984

The Enterprise (old spelling “Enterprize”) Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The **Enterprise** was the second ship to be added to the first United States Navy fleet. She was a British ship at St. Johns, poised to enter Lake Champlain in 1775. She was a sloop, supposedly having a square main course and a top mast. She carried twelve 4-pounders.

In a surprise attack on St. Johns the then Colonel Benedict Arnold, with Eleasar Oswald and Johnathan Brown with schooner **LIBERTY**, captured sloop **ENTERPRISE**, some small craft and the frame timbers of cutter **LEE**. On their return trip to Crown Point, Arnold made out the **ENTERPRISE** Pay Roll, listing the names of its soldiers and marines. The Pay Roll, dated May 3, was the date of Arnold's commission. This page is in our naval archives.

During the summer of 1775, **LIBERTY** and **ENTERPRISE** patrolled Lake Champlain. They continued this patrol during the summer of 1776 with added schooners **ROYAL SAVAGE** and **REVENGE** and took part in the Battle of Valcour October 11. **Enterprise** was one of the six ships that succeeded in reaching Fort Ticonderoga after the battle.

When the Americans evacuated Fort Ticonderoga on the appearance of General Burgoyne at the fort, she was one of the five ships to reach Skenesborough harbor. There, on July 6, she was destroyed with **LIBERTY** and **REVENGE**, and row galley **GATES**. Their remains were discovered when Lock 12 was constructed from 1907 – 1912.

The Whitehall Times
May 10, 1973

The Taking of the Liberty (AKA Katherine)
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Tomorrow, May 11, will be the 198th anniversary of the taking of the ship LIBERTY, renamed from KATHERINE in honor of Philip Skene's wife. This was affected by sailors and marines under the direction of Captains Brown and Sloan whom Benedict Arnold had sent to Skenesborough to finish the work intended for the Green Mountain Boys. The ship was taken down Lake Champlain and fitted out as a warship. Thus it became the first armed war ship of the United States Navy.

On May 9, 1775, occurred the capture of Skenesborough by the Green Mountain Boys under Captain Samuel Herrick. This capture took place during daylight hours. Another account reports that Captain Barnes from Salem arrived at dusk with another force for the same purpose. This brought the first military action of revolutionary nature into New York State in our community.

Perhaps many saw the account in the POST STAR May 3 that repeated the legends; in some respects true and in most false, even to the date of the capture, that are shallowly researched and written up sensationally to the discredit of Whitehall. The Town Historian sent a letter to the editor of that paper attempting to refute the implications.

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Jamas Lonergan of Mount Defiance gave a stirring talk before the Veterans of the Big "T" on that mountain Sunday, May 6. In giving a short history of the area and lauding our beautiful scenery, he gave to Skenesborough and so Whitehall its rightful place in the Revolutionary story that so many historians omit, for here it was that the first ships of the United States Navy were constructed for the fleet that saw action in Valcour action that gave to us our United States.

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Sunday night I was given the honor of being chosen Whitehall's Woman of the Year. This event is sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

The Whitehall Times
June 5, 1980

Schooner Liberty
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The float of the chamber of commerce is being sent on parades again this year. The "crew" of this model passes out flyers with the history of the ship so that people along the route may know the significance of the float. The material follows:

Schooner Liberty

The schooner **Liberty** was the first ship of the United States Navy. Built in 1772 for Philip Skene's trade on Lake Champlain, it was captured 9 May 1775 at Skenesborough by the Americans from New England.

This 40-ton red cedar ship, named **Katharine** for Skene's wife, was rather small with length 41 feet, keel 31 feet, breadth 14 feet 9 inches and depth 3 feet 1 inch.

On 11 May 1775, Benedict Arnold's sailors and marines renamed it **Liberty** and sailed it down Lake Champlain to Crown Point where it was armed for a definite offensive act of war, the taking of a British sloop at St. John's. This sloop was christened **Enterprise** (*old spelling*).

During the summer of 1775 these two ships, with other smaller ones, patrolled the lake. When General Richard Montgomery's invasion of Canada occurred that fall, he was supported by both of these ships when the **Royal Savage** was secured from the British.

In 1776 **Liberty** was one of 17 ships of the first United States' "fleet. During the Battle of Valcour she was away for supplies but she rejoined the fleet on its retreat to Crown Point and Ticonderoga.

When the Americans retreated from Fort Ticonderoga in July, 1777, **Liberty** was one of the five remaining ships to carry the sick and wounded to Skenesborough. There, 6 July 1777, she was captured in the brief naval battle by the British and taken back to St. John. From 1777 to 1780 she was on British service on the lake. In April, 1781, she was deemed not worthy of repair and was not used again. The next year she was accidentally burned at the dock.

Among his losses in America, Philip Skene was awarded the value of the schooner, its rigging at stores and rent for 39 months, 986 pounds from the British government in 1786.

The Whitehall Times July 11, 1985

The Story of the Liberty Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The capture of Skenesborough May 9, 1775, is to be re-enacted July 13, 1985 as a part of Whitehall Festival '85 observance. One of the main purposes of this capture was the securing of Philip Skene's 40 ton red cedar schooner to ferry the Green Mountain Boys across Lake Champlain in the capture of Fort Ticonderoga. This is the story of that ship which became the first ship of the United States Navy.

From 1759 when Skene began settlement at the head of Lake Champlain, he had established during the 1760's a firm estate of farms, mills, and trade. Since much transportation occurred on Lake Champlain a larger conveyance was needed besides his scows and batteaus. By 1771 he possessed a schooner and two passage boats. The schooner he called KATHERINE in honor of his wife, Katharine Heyden.

On May 9, 1775 Captain Samuel Herrick with thirty men split from the main body of the Green Mountain Boys to go to Skenesborough. There they took the schooner

KATHARINE but instead of sending it on to Hands Cove to carry the force to Fort Ticonderoga, they tarried in Skenesborough to raid the wine cellar and loot Skenesborough House and the schooner.

By May 11 the KATHERINE was in the charge of Benedict Arnold's recruiters who had arrived at Skenesborough. They were Captains Oswald and John Brown. They renamed KATHARINE, THE LIBERTY. They took on board 50 men and the captured Skene family son Andrew, daughters Mary and Katharine (Kathi), sister Elizabeth, and John Brooks, deputy of his Majesty's Forests. They sailed down Lake Champlain to Ticonderoga where on May 13 they left the Skene family at the fort. Benedict Arnold had the schooner armed with four carriages and eight swivel guns, including the ones found on LIBERTY. The LIBERTY reached Crown Point on May 14. On the same day Arnold with fifty of his men set out with Captain Oswald in charge of the sailors and Captain Sloan in charge of the soldiers, with himself in charge of the LIBERTY. They were headed for St. John's in Canada to take a British ship that was located there.

By the evening of May 17 the force was off St. John's. At 6 a.m. May 18 Arnold with two boat loads of men took the place by surprise and captured a 70 ton sloop with its guns and carriages, six batteaus, and other supplies. This ship was later called the ENTERPRISE. Within two hours they were on their way south with Arnold on the captured sloop. On the way back he made out the payroll for the soldiers, sailors, and marines from the LIBERTY from May 3 to July 12, 1775, the date on which they had been engaged.

Back at Ticonderoga Arnold armed the ENTERPRIZE with six carriages and 14 swivels. During the summer and fall of 1775 these two ships were used as patrol of Lake Champlain to prevent Britain's penetration of the area. They were joined by a third, schooner REVENGE, built at Ticonderoga.

In 1776 preparations for war were stepped up on both sides. With these ships as a nucleus Arnold added others to his fleet as they were finished and still patrolled the lake. LIBERTY was used for carrying supplies and for this reason was away from the fleet during the Battle of Valcour in October. As the remnants of the fleet fled from Valcour to Ticonderoga she joined them and was there in 1777 when the American ships went to Skenesborough with the ammunition, supplies, and inmates of the hospital who were hastily sent up on the approach of General Burgoyne.

Five ships - ENTERPRISE, LIBERTY, REVENGE, TRUMBULL, and GATES - were in Skenesborough Harbor when the British navy ships arrived. In the short conflict that followed three of the ships were blown up and burned. The remaining two - LIBERTY and TRUMBULL -were captured by the British and remained in their service. When Lock 12 was constructed, 1907-1912, the remains of these ships were found. Two cannons were placed on the Armory lawn in later years and many checker board cue sticks, and so on were said to be from the LIBERTY, but later it was known to be the GATES.

LIBERTY was taken to Canada and employed in the Navy as long as she was serviceable. She then was moored at a dock in St. Johns and by 1784 had suffered the fate of the later War of 1812 ships in East Bay.

From this story of the LIBERTY it is clear that the LIBERTY did not stay in Skenesborough Harbor to be found in the twentieth century.

The Whitehall Independent
December 5, 1984

The Royal Savage
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The schooner **Royal Savage** is the theme of Whitehall's Festival '85 pin and pendant. This ship was the third one to enter the first United States fleet which played such an important part in the Revolution.

Royal Savage was originally a British ship stationed at St. John. In an attempt to obtain the alliance of the Canadians, Richard Montgomery was in charge of a force sent north toward Canada while Benedict Arnold was approaching that country through Maine. Montgomery had with him schooner **Liberty** and sloop **Enterprise** to keep the British from entering Lake Champlain.

On 14 October 1775, Montgomery shelled St. John and sank the British schooner in the harbor. When he captured St. John 3 November 1775, the ship became the possession of the Americans with an extra set of sails. The schooner was raised and sent south to Crown Point, which it reached 17 November. That winter Henry Knox stripped it of its cannons and carried them to Cambridge, Massachusetts. There was an attempt to rename the ship Yankee but the original name stuck.

During the summer of 1776, Arnold patrolled Lake Champlain with four ships against an expected British attack. Schooner **Revenge** had been added to the fleet. **Royal Savage** was his flagship while gundelos and row galleys were being constructed in Skenesborough Harbor. When finished, each ship was sent down the lake to join the fleet. Row galley **Congress** was one of the larger ships and Arnold transferred to her.

When the Battle of Valcour occurred 11 October 1776, **Royal Savage** was armed with four 6-pounders, four 8-pounders, and some swivels. When the British gunboats preceded the larger warships into Valcour Bay, Arnold sent **Royal Savage** to intercept them. The schooner was a poor sailor. Poorly handled, she fell prey to British gunfire and ran ashore at the southern part of Valcour Island. The men escaped but Arnold's effects and papers which he had not transferred were lost.

Captain Pringle of British **Maria** sent a boarding party to the schooner and blew her up so that Arnold could not recover her. There the wreck rested, covered and uncovered by the waters, until 1934 when she was raised by Captain Lorenzo Hagglund.

Pieces of the ship were used to make billiard cues, checker boards, and the like. Royal Savage Inn has planks, and Skenesborough Museum had one presented to it by the late Paul Bilhuber, a historical buff of Lake Champlain artifacts. The inn, located near the Bay of Valcour, is a reminder of the first naval fleet action of the Revolution.

The Whitehall Independent December 7, 198?

Row Galley Washington Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Row Galley **Washington** is the naval ship used for the logo pin of Whitehall's Festival '87. It is the fifth ship design chosen for the Festival's from the first fleet of the United States Navy; Schooner **Liberty**, Sloop **Enterprize** (*old spelling*), Schooner **Royal Savage**, Gundelo **Philadelphia**.

During the summer of 1776, while the fleet was being produced in Skenesborough Harbor, Benedict Arnold, in charge of the project, designed the row galley to succeed the gundelo. It was larger to carry more men; it was heavier to carry more armament; and it was easier to handle.

Since the British made a plan of it, after its capture, the ships dimensions are known: hull, 80 feet; deck length, 72; keel length, 66; beam, 20; depth, 6; draft, 7; tonnage British Metric, 123.

This design is in the national museum in Greenwich, England. One resource reports **Washington** was re-rigged as a brig but the design shows she had the characteristics of large lateen sails and two masts.

Four of these row galleys were constructed in Skenesborough, rigged in Ticonderoga, and sailed the Champlain to join the gathering fleet. They were named for prominent Revolutionary leaders - **Washington**, **Trum bull**, **Gates**, and **Congress**. All except **Gates** were in the battle in Valcour Bay. 11 October 1776. **Gates** was not completed to take part.

Washington was in the line of the American ships stretched across Valcour Bay as it forced the British ships the day of the battle. It with the other ships followed **Trum bull** out of the bay that night and fled south to Schuyler Island. The sails were severely riddled but after slight repairs she ran guard, 13 October, at the rear of the fleeing ships that the British were fast overtaking. General David Waterbury asked to scuttle her but was refused permission. Shortly afterwards the enemy took her and her crew. The enemy took her and her crew. They were later released to praise the kind treatment they received.

Washington was repaired and reached Crown Point with the British from which she departed on 28 October 1776 with Major General Riedesel aboard bound for St. John on the next day she ran aground during a storm but was released by passing boats. There Riedesel left her for Three Rivers. She wintered at St. John.

The next year 1777 when General Burgoyne's huge fleet started south, supposedly for Albany, many small boats accompanied the large war vessels. Among them was the row galley **Washington** with gundelo **Jersey** and cutter **Lee** which the British had also taken in the retreat from Valcour. Since the small boats also accompanied General Burgoyne to Skenesborough, it can be assumed **Washington** was among them carrying troops and in about two weeks was sent back to Canada with the soldiers' and officers' effects that could not be carried southward with Burgoyne because of lack of horses.

Washington served the British until 1784 when she deteriorated or was broken up as did the first ship of the United States - Liberty.

Role of Whitehall in the War of 1812

Whitehall was a strategic naval place in the War of 1812. Again the British threatened invasion of Lake Champlain and again Skenesborough shipyards became a focal point for the United States Navy.

Under orders from the War Department Lieutenant Melancton Wheeler Wolsey built two gunboats in Whitehall to aid the Customs Collectors against smugglers that sprang up after the Embargo Act of 1807. These by 1812 were at Basin Harbor under the command of Lieutenant Sidney Smith who could get no assistance from the army to keep them in repair.

On 12 September 1812 Lieutenant Thomas, Macdonough, 28 years old, was ordered by the War Department to come from Maine to command the fleet on Lake Champlain. On 28 September his orders read in part: Six vessels have been purchased by the War Department and there are two gunboats built by the Navy upon the lake, the whole of which is to be under your direction and command.

Macdonough found that this fleet consisted of two gunboats, three schooners and three other boats too old to carry guns. The last three were kept as transports. He found some good men also — Lieutenant Sidney Smith, a capable seaman; Midshipmen Joseph Smith and Trumble; and a like pilot, Joseph Barron. These men he ordered to get the ships to Whitehall, under sail or by rowing. He himself hurried to the shipyards of Moses Eggleston and Samuel Boardman, two boat builders of Whitehall, to persuade them to re-timber these ships for the Navy. Recognizing him as a capable sailor they set their talents to re-timbering the ships under his direction. They used the two shipyards and Eggleston's sail loft.

Three weeks after the ships had gone into dry dock they had sailed for Plattsburgh — the two gunboats under Midshipman Trumble and the schooners **President, Bull Dog, and Hunter**.

The British did not venture into the lake and the American fleet went into winter quarters in Shelburne Bay where the ships were further refitted with materials sent from Whitehall. The names were also changed: The **Hunter** became **Growler** and **Bull Dog, Eagle**. These two were again renamed when the British captured them the following summer and they became **Broke** and **Shannon**. During this summer of 1813 the American fleet had flagship **President, Preble, Montgomery, Frances and Wasp**. It put into Otter Creek at Vergennes, Vt., and the winter where the new flagship **Saratoga** was constructed and **Ticonderoga** converted into a warship from a steamboat.

Whitehall became a busy material center. Besides the fort already on the west side, a blockhouse called Fort Comfort was constructed on what is now the Island. Below it was a wooden structure heavily covered with dirt in which was kept powder and supplies. On Put's Rock, Captain Squire Bartholomew's company built breastworks of loose stones and a square blockhouse on the southern side which was torn down in 1830.

When the Battle of Plattsburgh was imminent, supplies, ammunition, and men 1 flowed through the port. Some men were not too eager. A regiment of militia from

Salem took 12 days to reach Whitehall on their way to Plattsburgh. On hearing of Macdonough's victory it took them two days to return.

After the Battle of Plattsburgh 11 September 1814 Macdonough gradually sent, after repairs, his American fleet and the British prize fleet to Whitehall to be in one place and farthest from the enemy. They were moored stern to stern at the Elbow under Taft's Island where they lay for years with seamen serving on them under Lieutenant Charles Budd. Macdonough himself had quarters there in the early part of 1815.

By 1825 the ships had been disposed of — either sold, broken up, or left to deteriorate in East Bay, except British **Confiance** which was blown up in 1873 as a menace to navigation.

Whitehall remained a government depot for some years; the government storehouse was constructed on the east side of the harbor in 1817.

The Whitehall Independent October 16, 1985

Some Ships of the War of 1812 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

When Lieutenant Thomas Macdonough took charge of the United States Navy on Lake Champlain, he had been informed that the Navy was in Shelbourne Bay, three miles south of Burlington, in charge of Lieutenant Sidney Smith. On inspection 10 October 1812 he found the two United States Navy gunboats, and six army sloops fit for fighting to be two scows on the beach, five weather battered sloops anchored off shore, derelicts, and the sixth, **PRESIDENT**, in sailing condition under Master Joseph Barron in charge with Midshipman Joseph Smith, and twenty two so-called seamen who boarded where they could,

Sidney Smith had taken charge of the boats 10 March 1810 with headquarters in Basin Harbor where two years before Lieutenant Taylor of the Army had built two gunboats, really scows, heavy and open, forty feet long that wouldn't float and no one would repair. The Master Mate with Sidney Smith was John Trumbull.

The two gunboats needed re-timbering; of the six sloops only three could be used **HUNTER**, eighty feet; **BULLDOG**, sixty four feet; **PRESIDENT**, sixty five. There were civilian carpenters at Whitehall where the Army was setting up an arsenal. Macdonough ordered Barron to dry out the ships and caulk them ready to set sail for Whitehall. This was accomplished on Sunday and the ships set sail with Sidney Smith in charge of **PRESIDENT** and Joseph Smith in charge of the gunboats. The ships reached Whitehall Tuesday night.

Lieutenant Macdonough preceded them to Whitehall and found commercial master shipbuilder Moses Eggleston in his shipyard in Whitehall, a place of lumberyards, to work on the sloops and to get Mr. Boardman to work on the gunboats in his yard, these last to have one long pounder on each. The officers were to work with Mr. Eggleston on the sloops, Sidney Smith on **HUNTER** and Joseph Smith on **BULLDOG**, and Macdonough on **PRESIDENT**. Thus the United States Navy was shaping up.

The Whitehall Independent October 23, 1985

Some Ships of the War of 1812 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The little American Navy lay covered with snow during the winter of 1812-1813 in Shelbourne Bay. The guns were taken off and set up to guard the harbor. Besides changing the quarterdecks of HUNTER and BULL DOG, Lieutenant Sidney Smith also suggested changing the Army's names of the ships. Macdonough permitted him the privilege of choosing the names. Thus HUNTER became GROWLER and BULL DOG became EAGLE. Although the Army claimed PRESIDENT, Macdonough added the name of PRESIDENT to the Navy list of ship's names in his report to the Secretary of the Navy.

On 23 April 1813, before anyone expected them, GROWLER and EAGLE appeared and moored off Plattsburgh with eleven guns each. PRESIDENT now carried two additional 18 pounders and two more long 13's. For a while the flagship and the other two sloops maintained the peace of the lake by keeping the Army free from molestation and the navigation clear to the merchants, but more experienced officers and more equipment and ships were needed. PRESIDENT ran onto an uncharted rock off Plattsburgh. With the help of GROWLER and EAGLE, she was "walked" off the rock, restored and remounted with guns. In June 1813 the British were again annoying the Americans at Champlain and Plattsburgh and Macdonough was asked if his navy could help. He sent GROWLER and EAGLE to the lines to prevent the British gunboats from harassing but he gave strict orders - "Confine the British gunboats to their waters. Under no circumstance will you let the enemy lead you into a snare. Stay on your guard on the American side of the line." Against these instructions the Americans were led into an ambush at Hospital Island, six miles over the line. Direct fighting began. EAGLE's guns were disabled and the British took her. GROWLER was soon afterwards forced to surrender to the enemy. The only good thing that happened was the prompt response of government aid to gain the ascendancy on Lake Champlain.

Reports from the captured sloops were that they had been renamed. GROWLER became SHANNON and EAGLE became BROKE after Captain Philip Broke of the British ship SHANNON. The two ships were repaired and fitted out by their new owners to annoy the Americans at Burlington. PRESIDENT returned their fire and the British retired to their own line.

Champlain and Plattsburgh were raided and partially destroyed on 29 July, 1813; Secretary Jones had recognized the importance of the conflict on Lake Champlain and ordered assistance in men and materials. Such men as Stephen Cassin, George Pearce, Charles Budd, and George Beale became known in Whitehall and later the shipyard at Vergennes, Vermont came into existence. In it the larger ships, SARATOGA, EAGLE, and TICONDEROGA were added to the fleet.

The British were fond of changing names of their ships and so the captured sloops were renamed. GROWLER became FINCH and EAGLE became CHUBB. They were next seen in the Battle of Plattsburgh 11 September 1814. Abraham Walker, pilot of the

GROWLER, escaped from Quebec and Jarvis Loomis, sailing master of the EAGLE, and men from the two sloops were exchanged and saw service again on the lake.

The Whitehall Independent October 23, 1985

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The sloops repaired for the United States Navy in Whitehall Harbor in 1812 were in the Battle of Plattsburgh 11 September 1814. These were CHUBB (HUNTER, GROWLER, SHANNON) and FINCH (BULL DOG, EAGLE, BROKE). Sloop PRESIDENT which had been with these two had been captured by the British in 1814 and renamed ICICLE. She was not in the battle

The Battle of Plattsburgh was fought at anchor. The American Navy took up position on the west in Plattsburgh Bay awaiting the British ships from the north. These were, in order from the north EAGLE, SARATOGA, TICONDEROGA, and PREBLE. The British sailed around Cumberland Head, led by FINCH which dropped anchor toward Crab Island at the south of the bay. The other ships lined up with the Americans were CHUBB opposite EAGLE; LINNET a little to the south of her; CONFiance opposite SARATOGA; and FINCH opposite TICONDEROGA. The British gunboats were in line with TICONDEROGA and PREBLE while the American gunboats supported the action in back of the American line.

Twenty minutes into the battle EAGLE crippled CHUBB and she drifted toward SARATOGA where she struck her colors and was boarded. At the other end of the line in the two hour battle TICONDEROGA crippled FINCH who drifted nearer Crab Island where she grounded on a shoal. She was fired upon from a small battery on the island and was taken into possession by the invalids who manned the battery. It was on this island that the sailors and marines who fell in the battle were buried, side by side, in a common grave.

Thus the sloops that were the first ships of the American Navy on Lake Champlain in the War of 1812 returned to that position after having been in British service for two years.

After Macdonough's victory on Lake Champlain, the larger ships were sent to Whitehall in anticipation of a possible raid by the British. The gunboats of the British had quietly slipped away from the battle but the American gunboats in general were kept to the north of the lake.

The Treaty of Ghent was signed 24 December 1814 and ratified by the United States Senate 17 February 1815. Thus ended the war in which Whitehall men, harbor, and events had a part - a part of Whitehall's naval history.

The Whitehall Times
October 23, 1985

The Confiance
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

I'm not sure whether this can be called a mystery or not, but the boat that was destroyed in Whitehall Harbor in the later 1800's was not the Confiance.

A newspaper account in 1873 told of the destruction of a boat that brought hundreds of spectators out to sit along the sides of Skene Mountain to watch the renowned Dynamite Jack blow up a ship. It was reported that this ship had been used since the War of 1812 as a living quarters for many families but had become so deteriorated that it was abandoned. It became a derelict and swung around into the lane of traffic and Dynamite Jack had been hired to destroy it. But what ship or boat was it? The Confiance was brought to Whitehall in October, 1814, as a prize ship after the Battle of Plattsburgh Sept. 11, 1814. Recently Morris Glenn of the Navy Department brought material from the Navy files that tell the fate of the Confiance.

Original letters in government files give this account. Thomas Macdonough brought the prize ships Confiance and Linnet and the American Saratoga and Ticonderoga to Whitehall for winter quarters. Galleys were added to this number later. James Leonard was sent to Whitehall 18 January 1815 to take charge of the fleet on which there were 250 men. The vessels at that time were reported to be in the same state as they had been after the battle.

In March, 1814, he reported that, according to his orders, the squadron on Lake Champlain was completely dismantled. He believed the best way to lay up the vessels would be to keep them afloat and whitewash them inside and out with their bulkheads taken down and every thing placed away below to admit the circulation of air, with them roofed over with rough boards. The vessels were placed as much as possible out of the sun.

On 30 July 1816, Leonard had orders to sell the ships at public auction. By 1 January 1819, the hulls of ships Saratoga, Linnet, Ticonderoga and Eagle were in good condition ready for service. But Confiance showed symptoms of decay with dry rot, not unusual as it appeared she was constructed of the worst, timbers for building a ship (not the good oak that is in the clock and other items said to have been made from her timbers).

By 1 January 1820 the decay and leaking condition of Confiance made it difficult to keep her afloat. She went down as far as her flat bottom would allow with the water even with the gun decks. Everything removable had been taken from the ship so that she was a mere hull. Leonard thought that in the spring she could be transported from the southern part of the lake in the spring freshet or broken up. On 8 April 1826 he requested that the decayed Confiance still in the same position, close to shore, be broken up and the decayed timbers be used as fire wood and the old iron and copper be removed.

From this it would seem that the Confiance could not have been the ship which people lived on until mid 1880's nor could it have held that beautiful chest supposed to

have taken from it; that is another tale now unfounded. On 28 January 1826 the naval Station at Whitehall was closed.

Kevin Crisman, the University of Vermont student who has studied the Ticonderoga, at Skenesborough Museum plans a research, paper on the ships of the War of 1812. We will hear more from him and his research and from Morris Glenn.

The Whitehall Times **March 3, 1968**

The Eagle **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

“The Eagle; an American Brig on Lake Champlain During the War of 1812”, recently published, is a delightful history written in an easy flowing manner that includes details of the building of the sloop Eagle in Vergennes, Vermont, the Battle of Plattsburgh on 11 September 1814 in which it took part. Its stay in the Whitehall Naval depot 1814 to 1825, and its underwater archaeological study in the Poultney River known as East Bay.

In the War of 1812 there was foreseen a contest on Lake Champlain between the British in Canada and the United States. Lieutenant Thomas Macdonough, later commodore, was sent to this area for preparation for defense. Through purchase and construction he assembled a fleet on the lake. However to meet a superior warship being constructed by the British he needed an additional ship. After agonizing red tape permission for its building was secured and Adam Brown, an outstanding shipwright was sent to Vergennes Shipyard.

Kevin Crisman the author of this book, by using excerpts from original letters, diaries, logs, pictures, and exploration tells the fascinating story of building sloop Eagle in nineteen days with green wood of Vermont trees, and Monkton iron to its launching 11 August. It joined the fleet on 26 August under Lieutenant Robert Henley, captain.

Then follows the description of the Battle of Plattsburgh with the action of both American and British ships; especially Eagle and the final disposition of the warships brought after the battle to lie in lake waters at Whitehall in Navy care until 1825. Their final disposition was under the waters of East Bay.

Boat enthusiasts will delight in the underwater exploration of the Eagle's hull as it was studied by marine archaeologists in the murky Poultney River waters and its construction details transferred to paper. For three years this team uncovered the artifacts and Kevin translated it into the history, Eagle.

Even the technical description of the parts of the Eagle are interesting to a layman. They are accompanied by a glossary, log book entries, pictures, appendices, and plans. The picture alone of the area around Whitehall, the paintings of ships of the period, and the map of Whitehall in the 1854 period during the time Whitehall was a Navy depot are exciting. The book has filled a gap in the history of boat construction when a boat plan might be only a builders sketch on a piece of wood.

Kevin Crisman is a maritime archeologist, a member of Champlain Maritime Society of Burlington. His acknowledgement to the members of this group are many, especially to Arthur B. Cohn, a partner in Lake Champlain research and co-director of the Whitehall

Project. Kevin also wrote "The History and Construction of the United States Schooner Ticonderoga."

"The Eagle" was published by the New England Press, Shelburne. Vermont.

The Whitehall Times

March 10, 1968

The Eagle (continued)

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The "characters" of this book have been known to Whitehall citizens for 176 years. The first ships of Lt. Thomas Macdonough's fleet of the War of 1812 were prepared for action in Whitehall Shipyard where they were brought from Vermont. The sloop **President** was his first flagship. The other two, **Hunter** and **Bulldog**, were renamed **Growler** and **Eagle**. When they were captured by the British they became **Broke** and **Shannon** and later the **Finch** and **Chubb**, the names used now for Whitehall's present marina. (*on the east side of the harbor. cg*)

During the first part of the war Whitehall was a center through which the American troops and war material passed on the way to Plattsburgh. On the "Island" north of the village was a fort, entrenchments, and an arsenal.

After the naval battle at Plattsburgh 11 September 1814 Macdonough made necessary repairs to the ships and brought four of them with several smaller ships, to Whitehall - American schooner **Ticonderoga** and brig **Eagle** and British **Confiance** and **Linnet**. The purpose was to keep them safe and prevent a possible future attack by the British. They were moored on the west shore of the lake, end to end, above the Elbow. Here world traveler Professor Silliman saw them on his way to Canada, the same year he saw famed Henry Francisco.

Here the ships lay in ordinary from 1814 to 1825. Commodore Macdonough now spent December 1814 on board **Confiance**. After that the ships were in charge of Lt. Charles Budd and Lt. James Leonard. On the west side of the harbor were several storehouses for naval supplies. On the east side of the harbor was built in 1816 the well known stone storehouse on the present site of Whitehall's marina.

When the ships began to deteriorate at anchor, they were transferred to East Bay, part of the Poultney River. In 1825 the Navy sold the ships. The contents were removed but the condition of the ships prevented their dispersement. Over the years they gradually settled to the bottom and were covered with silt and mud.

In 1958 Whitehall's Bicentennial Committee raised a part of the **Ticonderoga** and placed it on the Skeneborough Museum grounds, a mistake, as it is now known that the best preservation for such ships is beneath the water. Many articles were taken from these ships, items left after the sales. On the **Ticonderoga** was a flap of a British

cartridge case. A policeman from Washington D.C. told me his diving club found some nautical instruments on them.

There are other stories I have heard. One is that a beautiful wooden chest was found on **Confiance** and is in the Macdonough family. Another, pieces of a china dinner set decorated with strawberries is in the hands of a Whitehall family. These seem strange items to be on warships.

Several years ago the newspapers of the country carried the news that 1812 warships were found lying in East Bay. To reporter's calls, the reply was given, "We knew it all the time."

During this decade two of these ships have been studied by members of the Champlain Maritime Society. Valuable information of boatbuilding has been added to our early naval construction knowledge by the archaeologists who recorded the details of these ships. Their findings have been written in detail in two books by Kevin Crissman - the recently published **Eagle** and History and Construction of the United States Schooner **Ticonderoga**. Today the American ships of the War of 1812, with the exception of the partial hull of the **Ticonderoga** lie peacefully in their beds, studied, diagrammed, and tagged in a state of preservation.

In the late 1800's a ship was blown up in the harbor by "Dynamite Jack" because it was obstructing traffic on the lake. The side of Skene Mountain was crowded to watch the spectacle. It was assumed that the ship was the **Confiance** that had drifted into the channel. Later research proves it was some other ship as the **Confiance**, poorly constructed, suffered deterioration, was drawn up on the east shore, and cut up for firewood by the sailors. Speculation now is that it might have been the **Saratoga** as that ship has not been found.

The Whitehall Independent **March 3, 1988**

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The Whitehall Independent

March 9, 1988

The Eagle (Continued)

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

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The Whitehall Times
November 25, 1971

The Ticonderoga
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Recently Skenesborough Museum received a plaque of the Navy aircraft carrier TICONDEROGA and a picture of the ship from Captain Malcolm E. Vail of Coronado, Calif. The plaque, a wooden shield, has a circular metal piece in gold and blue on which is printed:

USS TICONDEROGA
In Mare In Caelestis
Guardian of Freedom

The plaque will be placed in the Museum with mementoes of the first USS TICONDEROGA, the hull of which is on the Museum grounds. A piece of this original ship is encased on the carrier, having been sent to it from the Museum.

The present USS TICONDEROGA is the fourth Navy ship of that name. The first one was built on Lake Champlain as a steamboat. She was not a success as her machinery got out of order on almost every trip that she took. The U.S. Navy department purchased her in 1814 and she was taken to the Vergennes, Vt., shipyard where Thomas Macdonough was in charge of the building of a fleet for use on Lake Champlain. She was schooner rigged at the same time the SARATOGA was being built. She was 120 feet long, weighed 350 tons, and carried 17 guns. Her crew numbered 112 under the command of Lieutenant Joseph Cassin.

During the Battle of Plattsburgh 11 September 1814 USS TICONDEROGA played an important part. She crippled the British FINCH and LINNET. At the end of the line of battle, the contest was between her and the British gunboats. The American squadron had been fitted so hastily that many of the matches for the guns were defective. Hiram Paulding, 16 years old, was captain of one of the guns on the TICONDEROGA. He fired the guns in his section by having pistols flashed at them and continued this for the whole battle, two and a half hours. Lieutenant Cassin walked the aft rail and amid the shot and shell directed the loading of the guns.

"Had the British driven off the TICONDEROGA they would have won the day for their side," but the enemy attempt to carry the TICONDEROGA failed. Commodore Macdonough reported the loss on this ship as six men killed and six wounded.

After the Battle of Plattsburgh, the American and captured British ships were sent gradually to the head of the lake at Whitehall where they would be farthest from the enemy's hands. The TICONDEROGA was among the ships that were kept moored, stern to stern, under the island. The ships' guns were taken ashore and arranged so as to defend the area if the enemy should appear. In a Pittsburgh paper of 22 June 1815 the boats were advertised for sale, but they lay in the water year after year in East Bay, where they were finally moved, and sank. The NORTHERN POST of 2 November 1815 reported that the cannons taken from the sloops captured from the British were to be deposited in a building then being erected for that purpose. This evidently was the government storehouse on the east side of the lake.

The Whitehall Times
November 2, 1971

The Ticonderoga (continued)
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In 1958 the first USS TICONDEROGA was raised from East Bay by the effort of local persons interested in Whitehall's Bicentennial.

The waters of East Bay are muddy, the Champlain clay making a thick mixture that hampers underwater work. Bruce Manell, Carol and Wayne Senecal were the three divers who descended innumerable times to locate the ship which had to be done by feel, to fasten cables, and to direct operations. Because of the stress and strain of water and mud, the ship had to be cut into three pieces. Even then dynamite had to be used to get rid of some of the heavy mud that hampered work.

On shore a team of men with tractors worked long hours amid cables that snapped, mud that cloyed, and cold weather that stiffened the hands, as the project continued into October. These men included Frank Martucci, Tony and Steve Galick, Darwin Lamphere and Fred Steves. Joseph Lyons was responsible for the use of the Whitehall Volunteer Fire department truck for dislodging mud on the ship. Miss Claribel Snody had the hand wrought spikes collected. These loose nails were items much sought after in the Museum gift shop. In the ship was found the leather flap of an ammunition box on which is laid the English crown in gold leaf, evidently the prize of some American sailor.

Later the ship was transported to its resting place behind the Museum on the town flatbed. Here the first USS TICONDEROGA has been roofed and fenced and is an outstanding exhibit for the many Museum visitors.

The second USS TICONDEROGA, a barkentine - rigged steam powered sloop-of-war, served during and after the Civil War. She was the first American steam powered warship to circumnavigate the world.

The third USS TICONDEROGA was the interned German freighter SS CAMILLA RICKMERS. Renamed, she was used in running supplies to France for World War I troops. She was shelled and torpedoed in 1918, having only two medium guns for protection.

The attack aircraft carrier is the fourth USS TICONDEROGA. Her war was World War II. Her record is a long one in combat and field exercises. Her home port now is San Diego. She will be operating in this area for about another year.

Captain M. E. Vail, who sent the plaque and picture of the present USS TICONDEROGA, worked in our Museum when he and Paul Bilhuber arranged the material in honor of Edward Farmer, U.S. Navy Retired, who constructed the model of the Revolutionary and War of 1812 shipyards. Their efforts in our behalf are appreciated.

The Whitehall Times
April 22, 1981

The Ticonderoga
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Recently much interest has been evidenced in the first **U.S.S. Ticonderoga**, one of the ships that took part in the Battle of Plattsburg 11 September 1814. Letters of inquiry and telephone calls have solicited information. There is a meeting of Big T for those who served on that aircraft carrier which will be held in Ticonderoga this summer. Others have seen the hull of the **Ticonderoga** at Skenesborough Museum.

Kevin Crisman, a student at the University of Vermont, made a history report on the ship. He visited the hull at the museum, making measurements and sketches which he translated into prints. On one day he sat six hours under the hull making his study.

For the second time in its early history our nation was threatened by an enemy who planned to enter its heartland by way of Lake Champlain. This is a body of water advantageously placed for paths of war for friend or foe alike. It was the scene of the greatest naval battle of two wars, the Revolution's Battle of Valcour in 1776 and the Battle of Pittsburgh in 1814.

After the Revolution in the last years of the 18th century and the first ones of the 19th, the young nation had begun a lively trade in timber and potash via Lake Champlain. This necessitated the use of lake boats. After steamboat **Clermont's** success on the Hudson River in 1806, the merchants, of the area formed the Lake Champlain Transportation Company. For a time this company produced steamboat after steamboat for the ever growing commerce.

On 12 March 1813 work was begun on the second lake steamboat on Otter Creek near Vergennes, Vt. This boat was to compete with the first steamboat on the lake, the Vermont. Mr. Lacey, an experienced boatman called "Doc", under the supervision of Captain Jahaziel Sherman, laid its steamboat hull into frame, in which condition it was when, a year later; it was purchased by the United States Navy, to become part of the Lake Champlain Navy.

Commodore Thomas Macdonough, after patrolling the lake during the summer of 1813 to keep the British from raiding the country, took his tiny navy into winter quarters. He chose "Button-woods" where Dead Creek runs into Otter Creek three miles from the falls at Vergennes. The place was named from the plane trees from which large brown nuts grew. Dead Creek was backed by swamps on the south and by rugged terrain on the north. The creek wound so that it offered protection from surprise from the lake.

In this fairly safe position during the next two months, sailors and soldiers were thoroughly trained, and men and materials poured into the area to make ready a fleet ordered by Secretary of the Navy Williams Jones. His orders said "You are authorized and directed to build about fifteen gunboats, or a ship, or a ship and three or four gunboats, as you think best. The object is to leave no doubt of your commanding the Lake and the waters connecting, and that in due time, you are therefore authorized to employ such means and workmen as shall render the accomplishment certain."

While discussing the decision of which boats to build, Lieutenant Stephen Cassin suggested that the Navy acquire the boat being built by the Lake Transportation Company farther down the creek. But Macdonough did not agree as he thought the idea of trying to use a steamboat was not practical as it would be too sluggish for war action.

Secretary Jones had heard of this steamboat hull and authorized its purchase. Noah Brown the renowned shipbuilder of New York City was ordered to the Vergennes shipyard. On 1 March he promised that he would build a large ship [**Saratoga**], and six new galleys, would repair four old ones, and have them ready 21 April. This was accomplished. The **Saratoga** was produced from green timber to launching in 41 days, from 2 March to 12 April, after which she was rigged and armed. As the **Saratoga** slid into the water she was christened by Ann Macdonough, the Commodore's wife, who christened all the ships there.

Immediately after the launching of the **Saratoga**, Noah Brown turned his attention to the steamboat hull of the **Ticonderoga** as the ship was now called. Commodore Macdonough and he agreed it was best to convert the vessel into a schooner. Its maintenance, protection, and questionable speed as a steamboat were ruled out for war purposes. On 12 May the schooner **Ticonderoga** was launched as a war vessel with 17 guns.

There is no picture of the first **Ticonderoga** but as her hull was constructed between that of the first Vermont and the first Phoenix it is probable she was proportioned similarly. She was 120 feet long, flat bottomed, and quite narrow. The examination of her hull at Skenesborough Museum bears this out. She resembled the British **Linnet** against whom she fought in the Battle of Plattsburgh.

(to be continued)

The Whitehall Times April 30, 1981

The Ticonderoga (continued) Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Immediately after the launching of the **Saratoga** on 12 April, Noah Brown turned his attention to the steamboat hull of the **Ticonderoga** as the ship was now to be called after Fort Ticonderoga of Revolution fame.

Commodore Macdonough agreed it was best to convert the vessel into a schooner as the maintenance, protection and questionable speed as a steamboat ruled it out as a war vessel. The schooner **Ticonderoga** was launched as a war vessel on 15 May. After the launching of the oak timbered ship, it was rigged and armed with eight long 12 pounders, four long 18 pounders, and four 32 pound carronades. She missed action when the British stood off Fort Cassin to block the exit of the Americans to Lake Champlain, for on sight of the large **Saratoga** sailing down the creek, the British fleet withdrew.

On 26 May with Lieutenant Stephen Cassin in command, the vessel wound down Otter Creek and entered the lake; accompanied by **Saratoga**, Commodore Thomas Macdonough in command; Preble, Lieutenant Charles Budd) six row galleys. **Boxer**,

Centipede, Nettle, Allen, Viper, Barrows; and four others named for sailor and soldier shipmates, **Wilmer, Ludlow, Aylwin, and Ballard.**

By Sunday, 29 May, Macdonough's fleet had arrived at Plattsburgh. The Commodore proclaimed **Ticonderoga** a fine ship, as he described all the others. For the next three months the Americans cruised the lower part of the lake and kept the British from making forays along its shores. The sailors and soldiers acting as marines trained strenuously on the ships and the working of the guns. During this time, **Ticonderoga** gained Sailing Master Joseph Lindsay and Midshipman Hiram Paulding.

Each side was awaiting a new vessel — the Americans brig **Eagle** (first called **Surprise**) which Adam Brown, brother of Noah, was building on Otter Creek; and the British, the frigate **Confiance**. Under construction **Eagle** was launched 27 August and sailed 27 August. **Confiance** was launched 25 August and appeared at Isle Aux Noix. Battle time was approaching. On 6 September, Macdonough took his American fleet into Cumberland Bay east of Plattsburgh, a body of water formed by Cumberland Head and the shoreline of Plattsburgh, facing south. On 11 September he had drawn them into battle line in north-south arch in the bay to the west. Brig **Eagle** with Lieutenant Robert Henley lay at the north of the arc; flagship corvette **Saratoga** with Commodore Thomas Macdonough was next; third in line as schooner **Ticonderoga** with Lieutenant Stephen Cassin; sloop **Preble** with Lieutenant Charles Budd was at the south of the arc. Between these ships and a little to the rear the gunboats were stationed, making in reality two lines' of battle formation.

On 11 September Captain George Downie sailed his British fleet from Isle Aux Noix into the Bay, taking up positions about opposite the American ships. Sloop **Chub** with Lieutenant James McGhie and brig **Linnet** With Captain Daniel Pring passed to the north to oppose **Eagle**; frigate **Confiance** with Captain George Downie faced **Saratoga**; sloop **Finch** with Lieutenant William Hicks and the gunboats concentrated on **Ticonderoga** and **Preble** at the southern end north of Crab Island.

From the **Saratoga** came the message, "Impressed Seamen Call on Every Man to Do His Duty," and the battle was on. During the first of the engagement four British gunboats and **Finch** attacked **Ticonderoga** and **Preble**. **Finch** was driven from her position and crippled to drift down to Crab Island where the inmates of the hospital there took possession of her. **Preble** also was forced out of position and dropped out of the line.

The gunboats now concentrated on **Ticonderoga**. Lieutenant Cassin coolly walked the aft rail to watch the boats and direct the firing of the canister and grape shot and bags of musket balls and small missiles that his crew used. Some of the schooner's matches failed to fire the guns and 16-year-old Midshipman Paulding used his pistol's flash to touch off the eight guns in his section. Many times the British gunboats got into boat hooks length of **Ticonderoga** and the men rose from their sweeps to board her, but each time **Ticonderoga's** crew was holed as were the **Saratoga** and **Eagle**.^{*} She covered the rear of the line during the remainder of the battle.

When **Confiance** struck and all other British ships lowered their colors, the gunboats started to leave the scene with the American gunboats in pursuit, but Macdonough recalled the Americans so that they could aid in saving the **Linnet** and the **Confiance** that were awash. This ended the battle of Plattsburgh. another decisive battle

to parallel the Battle of Valcour on the same lake during the Revolution. * *See next article for clarification. (kb)*

The Whitehall Times **May 7, 1981**

The Ticonderoga (continued) **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

For clarity, a sentence in last week's column must be read, "Many times the British gunboats got into boat hook's length of **Ticonderoga** and the men rose from their sweeps to board her, but each time the ship's crew beat them back. **Ticonderoga** was not holed as were **Saratoga** and **Eagle**. She covered the rear of the line the remainder of the battle."

With the close of the Battle of Plattsburgh the British officers presented their swords to Commandant Macdonough on board **Saratoga**. He returned their weapons, complimenting them for their gallant action.

Estimate of killed varies but an average seems to be 200 Americans and 300 British. The wounded of both fleets were admitted to Crab Island Hospital where all received the same careful attention. Schooner **Ticonderoga** has six wounded — Marine John Condon, Seamen Patrick Cassin, Ezekiel Goud, Samuel Sawyer, William LeCount and Henry Collin.

Six men on **Ticonderoga** lost their lives — Lieut. John Stansbury, Boatswains John Fisher and John Atkinson, Seaman Henry Johnson, Marines Deodrich Think and John Shays. Lieut. Standbury's body went overboard when his body was cut in two. Mysteriously it rose two days later in the same vicinity.

On 13 September the American officers killed, Lt. Peter Gamble, Lt. John Stansbury of **Ticonderoga**, acting sailing mate Rogers Carter, Midshipman James M. Baldwin, were taken in separate boats manned by crews of their own vessels to **Confiance** where they were joined by boats with the slain British officers — Capt.-George Downie, Capt. Alexander Anderson, Midshipman William Gunn, Boatswain Charles Jackson — and taken to the Plattsburgh shore. A large procession joined the cortege which wound its way to the village burial ground where the men were buried in the center under two pine trees. The sailors and marines were buried in a common grave on Crab Island.

After notifying Secretary Jones of the victory, Macdonough wrote congratulatory notes to his officers. Lt. Cassin reported to Macdonough 12 September, "It is with pleasure I state that every officer and man under my command (**Ticonderoga**) did their duty yesterday." On 13 September he was sent to Secretary Jones in Washington with the flags of the British squadron.

Gold medals were struck for Commandant Macdonough, Lt. Stephen Cassin and Master Commandant Robert Henley. Silver medals went to the families of Lt. Peter Gamble and Lt. John Stansbury. Swords were given to each midshipman and sailing mate.

The fleet remained in Plattsburgh for some time for repairs. On 2 October, **Saratoga**, **Confiance**, **Ticonderoga** and **Linnet** left Plattsburgh for Whitehall. As they passed Burlington, **Saratoga** fired a salute, probably as Rodney Macdonough said, the last gun she ever fired. The ships were anchored in the lake north of Whitehall, as shown in an early picture. On 4 November Macdonough turned the command of the fleet over to Lt. Charles Budd, late of the **Preble**.

Rumors of a British attack resulted 10 November in explicit instructions to Lt. Budd. He was to move the vessels so the guns could bear at any point of attack, especially if the enemy came over the ice; to raise batteries in advance of the squadron and barricade a small island. Thus the ships were moored at the Elbow under and below Taft's (Cook's) Island for several years. Here was where the traveler, Professor Silliman, saw them in 1819 with sailors looking out the portholes.

In 1824 the ships with six galleys were reported to be decayed and it was recommended they be disposed of or broken up. In 1825 an advertisement in a Plattsburgh paper offered them for sale. All but the **Confiance** were evidently transferred to East Bay where they gradually decomposed and sank. **Confiance** was used as a houseboat for a time. In 1873 it became a menace to navigation and was blown up by "Nitroglycerine" Jack (*In other articles call him "Dynamite Jack" kb*).

In 1958 members of Whitehall's 200th celebration committee sought out the **Ticonderoga** in the muddy waters of East Bay, fastened ropes to it and dragged it out of the water. To get the hulk to Skenesborough Museum, it was necessary to cut it in several places. Here it rests, partially preserved under cover for the public to view — a reminder of America's heritage in the War of 1812.

The Whitehall Times **May 28, 1981**

U.S.S. Ticonderoga **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

A fifth United States ship bearing the name **Ticonderoga** was christened May 1981, by Mrs. Nancy Reagan at Pascagoula, Miss.

During the formal ceremonies, Mrs. Catherine Garrand, president of the **Ticonderoga** Chamber of Commerce, presented a plaque containing a nail and a fragment of wood from the hull of the first **U.S.S. Ticonderoga** to Rear Admiral Wayne E. Meyer. The inscription reads:

"Section of planking of first **Ticonderoga**.

A 17-gun schooner launched at Vergennes, Vt., 1814.

In Battle of Pittsburgh, 11 September 1814.

Now at Skenesborough Museum, Whitehall, N.Y.,

Gift of Skenesborough Museum and **Ticonderoga** Chamber of Commerce."

Through correspondence, telephone calls and research, local people interested in the christening gathered information on the first **Ticonderoga**. Mrs. Garrand's experience in getting the box containing the nail through the airplane guard and tight Secret Service

security around Mrs. Reagan was nerve wracking and frustrating. Her description of the ceremonies best gives a picture of the occasion:

”The setting for the christening was awesome with **U.S.S. Norton Sound, Ticonderoga and Centurion** all regally decorated with signal flags, and red, white and blue bunting. The Naval Academy glee club sang from the deck of the Norton Sound and music was provided by the U.S. Navy Band. The Fort Ticonderoga fife and drum corps performed before the ceremony (they received an ovation) and acted as honor guard. It was a proud moment to watch our young people perform for such a distinguished gathering. Mrs. Reagan christened the ship with a hefty swing of the champagne bottle and from the deck of the **Ticonderoga** 10,000 red, white and blue balloons were released. The crowd cheered, the band played and I suddenly felt very humble and extremely proud of being part of the occasion.”

A reception was held at Long Fellow House under several large tents. Mrs. Reagan was presented a model of her ship “**The Ticonderoga**” and the broken champagne bottle in a wooden case as a memento of the occasion. Skenesborough Museum has the champagne bottle used by Mrs. Franke in christening **Enterprise**.

Mrs. Garrand reported that Admiral Meyer was profoundly moved by the presentation of the plaque and said it would be placed in a prominent place in the Aegis office.

The second was a barkentine-rigged steam powered sloop of war which served during and after the Civil War. The third was the interned German freighter **S.S. Camilla Rickmers**, renamed and used as convoy running supplies to France for World War 1 troops. The fourth **Ticonderoga** was an aircraft carrier commissioned in 1944.

A section of hull planking from the first warship **Ticonderoga** was presented to the aircraft carrier **Ticonderoga** by George Green, a shipwright at the Long Beach Naval shipyard. Mr. Green acquired the 10-inch oak plank section in Whitehall in 1959, the occasion of the town's Bicentennial celebration.

The Whitehall Times **August 30, 1973**

The Confiance **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

3 August "Nitro-glycerin Jack" (AKA “*Dynamite Jack*”) or J. J. Holden of Boston blew up the remains of British flag ship **CONFIANCE** which had been lying at the Elbow since Commodore Macdonough brought it here in 1814 with the rest of the prize fleet. Work by the state dredge caused it to swing opposite Mr. Water's dry dock, blocking its entrance. Mr. Lewis D. Waters supplied a limited number of walking sticks from the wood for \$1.00 (This ship's bell is in the Masonic Temple. A clock made from some of its oak is in Skenesborough Museum.)

The Whitehall Times
April 8, 1971

USS Whitehall
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

That local history is not just for old folks had been shown by the fifteen members of the Whitehall Jaycees aged 21 to 36, in their obtaining items from the USS WHITEHALL for Skenesborough Museum.

The WHITEHALL TIMES has covered this project with news items and pictures. The human story of this action covering a period of almost a year's correspondence and telephone messages is such an interesting one that I think it can bear repeating. Such projects don't just get done; they are work.

The story began when the Jaycees read in the Glens Falls Times, 5 May 1970, that USS WHITEHALL would be removed from its base in Cleveland, Ohio, to Philadelphia, Pa., and there be decommissioned, prey to a federal economy measure.

After consultation with Mayor Horace Scott, the members appointed Francis Norton chairman of the USS WHITEHALL Procurement Committee. Following a suggestion of Supreme Court Justice John J. O'Brien, Francis wrote a first letter to Representative Carlton J. King, requesting his assistance in obtaining the ship, if at all possible, for Whitehall, the Birthplace of the United States Navy.

This letter started a case of "musical chairs," letters in this case. Congressman King wrote to Secretary of the Navy John Hubbard Chafee asking what possibility the Village of Whitehall had in receiving the ship, its measurements, application forms and photographs. Rear Admiral E. R. Crawford sent detailed instructions and information.

Boiled down, the matter amounted to this. The ship would be given to Whitehall but the cost of bringing it to the village and mooring it permanently, \$100,000, would be borne by the village. It could come through the canal with its superstructure removed. Another detail of the labor the Jaycees put into this project is shown in the fact that a crew of Whitehall men, knowledgeable in the handling of ships, had volunteered to go to Philadelphia and bring the vessel to Whitehall.

Not only was money involved. The ship, still in commission, would have to be kept in seaworthy condition, ready to sail at any moment, even though the engines would not be in her. This would involve many services, such as yearly painting, insurance, government inspection, and yearly reports.

All this seemed insurmountable but there was one more opportunity. Francis wrote directly to President Nixon, mentioning the President's former association with Jaycees and the bills Congressman King has presented to gain Federal recognition of Whitehall's claim to the Birthplace of the United States Navy. This letter was answered by Assistant Secretary of the Navy Robert A. Frosch saying that the cost would have to be borne by Whitehall.

The Whitehall Times
April 15, 1971

USS Whitehall (continued)
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Since the whole USS WHITE HALL was unattainable, Francis (*Norton*) inquired of Assistant Secretary Robert A. Frosch if some artifacts from the ship could be obtained. Capt. L. G. Traynor, head of the curator branch of the Navy, replied that the ship's bell with clapper, the builder's plaque, and the last commissioning pennant flown would be placed on indefinite loan, the cost of transportation to be borne by the donee.

On 22 March 1971 these articles were received by Francis with these stipulations:

1. Display the materials loaned with dignity.
2. Maintain them in good physical condition.
3. Report to the curator annually on the condition and location of the material.
4. Request disposition instructions from the curator when ever the material has served its purpose.

The material was placed on display in Fragnoli's Appliance Store.

The iron bell with its brass clapper is 15 inches in diameter. The pennant, one and a half inches wide at the top, is three and a half feet long. The brass plaque reads: USS WHITEHALL (PCEIR*) launched 12 December 1943; commissioned 11 November 1944; built by Pullman-Standard Car Manufacturing Company.

When Skenesborough Museum opens in June, the Jaycees will make a formal presentation of the materials which will be placed in a special display area.

The Museum has now in the Admiral P. Potter Room pictures of the ship and its captain in 1959.

During Whitehall's Bicentennial program of 1959, Skenesborough Museum committee was in correspondence with the captain of the USS WHITEHALL who had written a desire to bring the ship to Whitehall for that event. Upon investigation it was discovered that the ship could not come up Lake Champlain because the locks were too small nor from the Hudson River by way of the Lake Champlain division of the Barge Canal because it couldn't pass under the bridges. The project had to be abandoned.

The Jaycees have brought to Whitehall more of our country's Naval history for the information of the townspeople and the many visitors who come to Skenesborough Museum. These members have completed many projects for their community. If only 15 members can accomplish so much, what could be done with many more of the village's young men, 21 to 36, dedicated to the betterment of the place in which they live?

Skenesborough Early History

**The Whitehall Times
October 29, 1981**

The Champlain Valley and History Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

"War in the Champlain" was presented in the afternoon of the Champlain Valley Symposium Oct. 17 in Plattsburgh SUNY.

We remember the story of the contest of the two groups of Indians in which Champlain took part in the vicinity of Dresden back in the 17th century. But other campaigns we are not as familiar with as the siege of Fort Saint-Jean in 1775, and Murray's raid of 1813. We do know something of the Battle of Valcour in 1776 and the Battle of Pittsburgh in 1814. But many of the actions of these campaigns and the men who fought in them have been forgotten.

Dr. Peter Aichinger from the College Militaire Royal de Saint-Jean described the siege of Fort Saint-Jean April-November, 1775. This was the action that involved Benedict Arnold whose forces had hewed their way from Maine to Quebec to join Richard Montgomery who had been in the vicinity for some months. They hoped to take Montreal and secure the aid of the Canadians in the Revolution. This dream was not fulfilled. Young General Montgomery had succeeded General Philip Schuyler. The weather was against them, and although the Americans had been successful in the first of the campaign in capturing the Royal Savage, the Indians and the British gentry turned the tide against the ill equipped Americans. General Montgomery was killed and General Arnold was wounded. On 3 November the Americans retreated.

The second talk was that of Dennis Lewis of Pittsburgh SUNY who spoke of Murray's Raid of 1813, an expedition upon both land and lake in the northern area. It was the only defensive action of the Americans on the lake in the War of 1812. The aim of the British was to deter invasion and create a diversion to help Upper Canada. They invaded by water and by land. Plattsburgh was looted. The citizens of the city asked the militia not to put up resistance that would destroy Plattsburgh. The citizens fled to the south and the militia was led to the west war three miles away. Private homes and military installations were destroyed by the invading force and provisions were carried off. On the lake the British went south as far as Shelburne, capturing some boats, but the fire from Macdonough's little fleet deterred them and by 3 August both enemy ships and army had withdrawn to Canada.

Dr. Lewis spent two years in preparing this paper for the symposium, securing material from scattered sources, even to finding them, show the value of such symposiums between the two countries that share the Champlain Valley.

The Whitehall Independent
November 21, 1984

225 Years Ago (1759)
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

During the year 1759, Major of Brigade Philip Skene began a settlement about the head of Lake Champlain. Here was already a fort with the 59th Regiment under John Wilkins. Here he was establishing a bulwark between the French and English which General Jeffrey Amherst had hoped for.

With the settlement already in existence, Skene made his first formal bid to King George. This request, known as a Memorial (petition) was on 10 November 1759. It was accompanied by a description of the plot in which he was interested. Entitled "The Boundaries of a Tract of Land Which Major of Brigade Skene Memorials For", it read:

"From the mouth of East Bay to the Head of South Bay, from the Head of South Bay to the Garrison Land at Fort Edward, from Fort Edward Garrison Land to the Head of Wood Creek to the Easternmost part of East River, taking all the River within the Line from the Easternmost Part of East River to the Narrows of Indian Camp Pond (which Pond empties itself into East River) from thence to the head of the first of the two large Creeks bearing Easterly, from thence to the head of the second large Creek bearing Northerly, from the second large Creek bearing Northerly to the Mouth of the Creek opposite Ticonderoga, and from thence to the Waters of the first mentioned Bounds."

This was a grandiose plot of land. It extended from East and South Bays, south to Kingsbury including Fort Ann. It went east into Granville to include the valley of Wood Creek and the Mettawee. From there it extended north along the Otter River Valley on the east side as far north as a point opposite Ticonderoga.

Distance in communication lines and delays in official action prevented the large tract of land from being granted to Philip Skene. Thus in 1763 with a large investment in his settlement and greater population on the land, Skene presented another memorial to the King.

The Whitehall Times
May 13, 1971

1759
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In material being presented for the 1765-6 Bicentennial, Whitehall is listed as being settled in 1761. In fact, that is the date on the State Historical Marker near our state line. As Whitehallers know, we had our Bicentennial in 1959.

Somewhere along the lines of research, historians used the date of 1761 and later writers copied it.

Philip Skene petitioned 10 November 1759 for a tract of land at the head of Lake Champlain. This petition was given by General Jeffrey Amherst to William Pitt 12 December 1759. The General said:

"I know no man in his post more deserving than he (Skene) is."

Already Skene had settled tenants on this land as stated in his memorial in American Loyalists, spending large sums of money on the project.

The Whitehall Times November 2, 1972

November 10, 1759 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

November 10, 1759, is a kind of date mark for Whitehall. On that day Philip Skene, stationed at Crown Point drew up his first memorial for land in a formal paper which he asked his friend General Jeffrey Amherst to present to the King of England. The boundaries of that tract requested described the land that he had already settled in Skenesborough, for the birth year of Whitehall was 1759, not 1761 or 1762 as many accounts give.

This first tract clearly is not the land that he received in his first patent though much of the territory is included. The boundaries read: From the mouth of East Bay to the Head of South Bay (it really is a straight line) from the Head of South Bay to the Garrison Land at Fort Edward, from Fort Edward Garrison Land to the Head of Wood Creek (doubtless the branch that rises in Argyle), from Wood Creek to the Easternmost part of East River, taking all the River within the line from the Easternmost Part of East River to the Narrows of Indian Camp Pond (which Pond empties itself into East River) from thence to the head of the two large Creeks bearing Easterly, from thence to the head of the second large creek bearing Northerly, from the second large Creek bearing Northerly to the Mouth of the Creek opposite Ticonderoga, and from thence to the Waters of the first mentioned Bounds.

The East River could well be the system that starts with the Pawlet River, which emptied into Skenesborough or East (Mettowee) and the second large creek mentioned might be the Otter, although that does not go to Ticonderoga. Perhaps Skene was not familiar enough with the area surrounding Skenesborough to give exact locations. He did get the boundary line back to the Mouth of East Bay.

The ghost story that has come from Greenwich is a reminder that Whitehall has a ghost story of its own. After the Green Mountain Boys buried Mrs. Skene's coffin they had plundered of its lead coating in the garden of Skene's house (not Skene Manor), a guard was set about the grounds. The young soldier on duty was pacing the garden when before him he saw a lady dressed in white garments. At his challenge she disappeared before his eyes, Frightened he dashed to the house and reported the scene. Reinforcements found nothing of the lady who had risen from her new spot of inhabitation. Does she still wander on moon-light nights north of Skene Mountain? Perhaps the boys did as the English lads when Philip Skene's grave was accidentally

opened by a heavy wagon wheel. They drove a nail into the coffin so that the Philip's ghost would be laid.

1772 held another event of interest in Skenesborough's history. On March 29, 1772, Colonel Philip Schuyler, Colonel Philip Skene, and William Duer, Esquire, were appointed Judges of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas for the County of Charlotte. The Court that year was held in Fort Edward in the home of Patrick Smythe but the following year Skenesborough was made the county seat, providing Skene would give 500 acres of land for the various public uses, including that of a church, a school, and other public buildings. This he did but the plans that were made then did not come to fruition.

The Whitehall Times **April 1, 1971**

Philip Skene **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Philip Skene owned slaves, a fact that is hard to understand in our present society, knowing that he was an intelligent, educated man. There is the reason that he needed labor to dig iron ore, to man his boats and to perform the labors of his household, and farm settlers in his community were too busy clearing their own land and making a living.

Information to date about the Negroes of Skene is scanty. It is known that he sent 22 from Havana and that only 13 remained in the diminished community when he returned from that tour of duty. He evidently was kind in their treatment, for he complained to Gen. Philip Schuyler that one of his men had been sent out on a stormy night with messages to his daughter and sister; that he "would not have ventured the person of the Negro to the inclement weather." He allowed them to keep money they earned on their own.

One man, John Anderson, was Skene's traveling companion, doubtless in the position of a valet. Anderson was with Skene when he was held in West Hartford, Conn. Here, although an outsider, he was elected governor of the black people. Their celebration of this event precipitated a demonstration on the part of the Americans.

Another slave was a small girl named Sylvia. She belonged to Philip's sister Elizabeth. On the capture of Skenesborough she was taken by the troops of Captain Barnes to Salem where she lived to be over 80 years of age.

Captain Dickerson took a Negro to Pittsfield after the plundering of Skenesborough. Whether all 13 people were scattered or whether some stayed to live in Skenesborough is still uncovered history.

It is interesting to note how Miss May Belle Curtis handled the slaves in "Kathi of Skenesborough." She did know the name of John Anderson and placed him as a leader of the servants. To some she gave names associated with such servants: Zack, an errand boy; Juliet, Kathi's maid; Juliet's sister, Chloe. Others were not named, just a boy, a little boy, Manny, an older man, and eight slaves rowing a boat, making 17 in all.

The Whitehall Times
October 19, 1978

May - 1775
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In May, 1775, Americans were poised at Hands Cove ready to cross Lake Champlain for Ticonderoga. They had known the need of boats and had sent a group to Skenesborough to obtain the sloop and small boats there. These did not arrive.

Also they had known Phillip Skene's iron ore barge was in the vicinity. One story tells that two young lads, James Wilcox and Joseph Tyler, overheard plans of the capture. They slipped out a window and went to the lake. When the scow arrived, they persuaded the Negroes to let them aboard as they wanted to go hunting squirrels. Then they took charge of the boat.

Since this story was used in Skene's biography, I have found two entries from letters written by the observers of the scene. These sources sound more reasonable.

At the time Capt. Samuel Herrick was sent to Skenesborough to take the sloop and boats there. Capt. Asa Douglass was sent to Pantton, Vt., to solicit aid there. With the help of his brother-in-law, he persuaded a Mr. Earl to let them cross the lake with him as he was going with his wife to the fort for supper. The two Americans pretended they wanted to buy ammunition at the fort to go hunting.

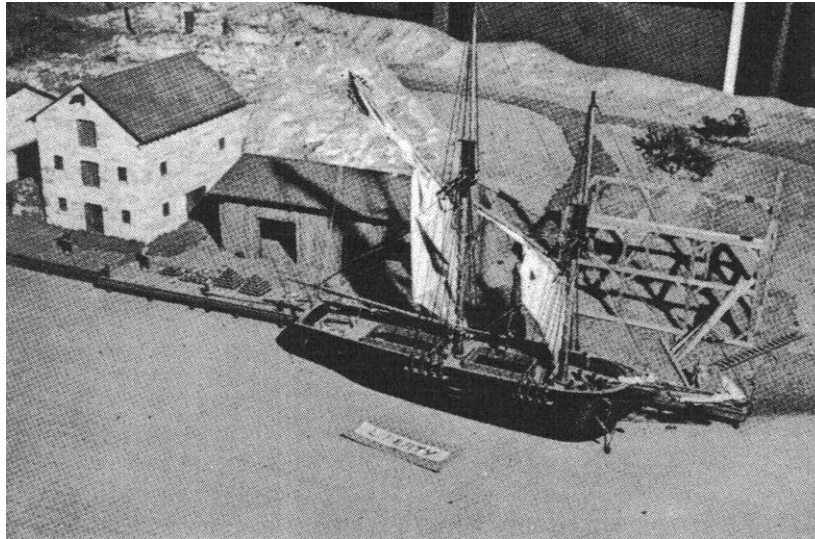
When the boat from the fort arrived to take Mr. and Mrs. Earl across the lake, the two men ran back to the hidden Americans. Fifty of them ran to the boat, put the British sergeant under guard and seized the boat.

Just then Skene's scow, commanded by two Negroes and loaded with iron ore from Crown Point on its way to Skenesborough, came into sight. The men called to the Negroes to come ashore, as they wanted to go to Skenesborough. When the boat reached shore, the Americans took it, put the Negroes under guard and threw the iron ore into the lake. They then crossed the lake to the west shore and landed about a mile north of Ticonderoga in the night.

These sources were from Edward Mott and Israel Warner.

The Whitehall Times
May 2, 1974

May 9, 1775
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



Anniversary Bells: Mr. and Mrs. William Martel, May 6.

Next Thursday, May 9, will be the anniversary of the capture of Skenesborough by the Green Mountain Boys in 1775. One year from that day in 1975, Whitehall will start its Celebration '76 with the reenactment of the event that occurred in 1775. The record of this first military action of the Revolution in New York State is told in the Documents of Naval History being printed by the United States government.

In April of 1775 a plan for obtaining cannon from the forts along Lake Champlain to help in the relief of Boston and for taking possession of Fort Ticonderoga to guard the transportation route between Canada and Albany evolved from several sources simultaneously and finally melted into one. It was carried out by men under the authority of the Massachusetts Committee of Safety and the Council of Connecticut. The leaders, Captains Edward Mott, Noah Phelps and James Easton, gathered men from their colonies that rendezvoused at Castleton and Hand's Cove across the Lake from Fort Ticonderoga. Col. Benedict Arnold arrived at Castleton for the meeting while Col. Ethan Allen was with some Green Mountain Boys at Hand's Cove. On May 9 Captain Samuel Hearick (original spelling) was sent with 30 men to capture Skenesborough where there were not only cannon but above all boats to help in ferrying the Boys across the lake. The settlement was reached in the afternoon of May 9 and the men took possession of the boats, the fort, Skene's family and his tenants.

Major Andrew Philip Skene was in charge of the settlement while his father Major Philip Skene went on a business trip to London. Together with his two sisters, Mary and Katharine (Kathi), and Aunt Elizabeth he was taken with the officers from Fort Ticonderoga as prisoners to Hartford and Salisbury, Conn., within a few days after the capture.

Captain Herrick and his men did not improve their success and complete their mission of taking the boats of Skenesborough, including the 40-ton red cedar schooner, to Hand's Cove. Instead they systematically looted the place, aided by cheer from the wine cellar. Thus it was that Col. Benedict Arnold's recruiters Captains Eleazar Oswald and Jonathan Brown with their sailors and marines stopped at Skenesborough and took the schooner down the lake through Ticonderoga to Crown Point. Here Col. Arnold armed it with the brass cannon taken along with it. And this ship, renamed LIBERTY, became the first armed ship of the United States Navy.

The capture of the two places, Skenesborough and Fort Ticonderoga, has similar stories. Both had forts in much need of repair; both were secured by a surprise attack by a small handful of Green Mountain Boys, Skenesborough was taken in the afternoon of May 9 and Fort Ticonderoga at daybreak on the morning of May 10.

Thus it was that the first military action of the Revolution in New York State occurred at Skenesborough May 9, 1775, the event which will be reenacted May 9, 1975, by local citizens, with the capture, a parade, and other exciting events in the planning state of the Celebration '76 Committee of which every Whitehaller is a member. Come to the meetings with your ideas to help your town and village celebrate its national place in our country's history.

The Whitehall Times September 26, 1974

May 10, 1775

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Research in primary sources is like hearing accounts of the same events by several people — the result being that there are as many versions as there are people. We've families with the tale that Captain Delaplace, in command at Fort Ticonderoga on 10 May 1775, appeared at the door of his quarters without his trousers and that Ethan Allen thundered he was taking the place "in the name of the Great Jehovah and the Continental Congress."

But listen to the eye witness account of British Lt. Jocelyn Feltham who had been ordered to the fort with a detachment of men for reinforcement.

On the night of the capture by the Green Mountain Boys; Feltham was asleep in a room close to Captain Delaplace's. About 3:30 a.m. he was awakened by shouts of "xxxxxxx quarters." He ran undressed to the captain's room but the door was fastened. He returned to his own room and put on his coat and vest and returned to the captain's room. He could not get down the stairs to arouse the British soldiers as the Americans filled the area way — but to give time for the captain to dress he asked the men on the stairs a series of questions — which they listened to — hoping that the British soldiers would begin firing.

"I was informed by one Ethan Allen and a Benedict Arnold that they had a joint command, Arnold informing me he came from instructions received from the Congress at Cambridge, which he afterwards showed me. Mr. Allen told me his orders were from the

Province of Connecticut and that he must have immediate possession of the fort and all the effects of George the Third. (Those were his words.) Mr. Allen insisting on this with a drawn sword over my head and numbers of his followers' firelocks presented at me, alleging I was commanding officer and to give up the fort, and if it was not complied with, or that there was a single gun fired in the fort, neither man, woman or child should be left alive in the fort. Mr. Arnold begged it in a genteel manner but without success. It was owing to him that they were prevented getting into Capt. Delaplace's room after they found I did not command."

Capt. Delaplace now came out of his room dressed and the British force was unarmed and put under guard. The Green Mountain Boys, who continued to arrive until about 10 o'clock, joined in the plunder "which was most rigidly performed as to liquors, provisions, etc., whether belonging to His Majesty or private property."

This was a Britisher's account of 10 May 1775.

Another eye witness account was published in the summer issue of Vermont History. A 13-year old seaman, Pacal De Angelo, told his story of the Battle of Valcour. He was on board the row galley Trumbull. His departure from the usually accepted version of the flight of the American fleet was the time element. He said twice that the fleet remained on the islands where they stopped for repairs 12 hours longer than other accounts give. This meant that the fleet was delayed a whole day and a half before continuing south.

It might conceivably be true that the Trumbull was there longer as she was the ship that lead the fleet past the British lines and naturally would be first at the islands.

The Whitehall Independent October 5, 1983

The Preparation Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

As seen from the British view, the defeated "boasters" were retreating in June 1776 south along Lake Champlain, in their weakened and sick condition.

The Americans had vessels on Lake Champlain with which to defend it from entry by the British. The British had 585 smaller boats and the vessels that later arrived from England, but they were all below the rapids at Chambly. They tried to drag schooner MARIA across the forest trail beside the rapids, but the task was beyond the many horses and men who attempted it. Captain Charles Douglas ordered that the schooners and a new 180 ton ship being built at Quebec be broken into sections, sent around the rapids, and put back together again at St. John. This took all of the summer of 1776. Meanwhile, the rebels were building ships at Skenesborough at the other end of the lake. Neither force was ready to challenge the supremacy of the lake until October.

By this time, the British had the ship INFLEXIBLE, schooners MARIE and CARLTON, gundelos LOYAL CONVERT, radeau THUNDERER, and 24 gunboats backed up with a flotilla of supply to meet the Americans' eight gundelos, three row galleys, a cutter, a sloop, and two schooners, as two ships were not present in the fleet at

this time. General Carlton was in charge of the British on the MARIA. He had in the fleet General Reidesel, the commander of the Hessian forces, and General Burgoyne who had arrived that spring with the ships from England. Besides these, he had 400 unpredictable Indians, with whom he felt very uncomfortable. The great advantage the Americans had was that their boats were all flat bottomed and could be propelled by oars. The Indians had warned Carlton of the approach of the Americans, but he didn't know where Arnold's squadron was.

It rained 7 October and an adverse wind kept the British fleet at anchorage until 10 October when they set out to find Arnold among the islands in Lake Champlain. On 11 October they continued the search, but didn't find the fifteen vessels until they had sailed beyond the opening of Valcour Bay and were down wind of Valcour Island. This island was a high, two mile slab of rock shaped like a hog's back, thick with tall pine trees rising steeply from the lake. On the inside shore of the island in a small bay facing south was Arnold. At 11 a.m. the American schooner, ROYAL SAVAGE was seen two miles behind the British. This vessel, on lookout, pointed to the American fleet behind it.

The 53 British vessels had to zigzag north against the breeze. The big vessels were now behind, their gun boats under oars. North of them lay the support boats and the Indians in their canoes.

The Whitehall Times July 20, 1972

July 1777 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Rattlesnake remedy, anyone? James Thacher was a doctor attached to the Revolutionary forces. He was at Ticonderoga and accompanied the sick from that fort when they came to Skenesborough in July, 1777. He wrote this account in his journal. We know that rattlers were; abundant in Skenesborough for there are Hessian accounts of them.

"Soon after my arrival there (Ticonderoga) a soldier had the imprudence to seize a rattlesnake, by its tail; the reptile threw its head back and struck its fangs into the man's hand. In a few moments a swelling commenced, attended with severe pain. It was not more than half an hour when his whole arm to his shoulder was swollen to twice its natural size and the skin became of a deep orange color. His body, on one side, soon became affected in similar manner, and a nausea at his stomach ensued. The poor man was greatly and justly alarmed; his situation was very critical. Two medical men, besides my self, were in close attendance for several hours. Having procured a quantity of olive oil, we directed the patient to swallow it in large and repeated doses, till he had taken one quart; and at the same time we rubbed into the affected limb a very large quantity of mercurial ointment. In about two hours we had the satisfaction to perceive the favorable effects of the remedies. The alarming symptoms abated, the swelling and pain gradually subsided, and in about 48 hours he was happily restored to health."

The Whitehall Times
July 5, 1973

July 6 1777 in Skenesborough
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

6 July 1777 in Skenesborough.

3 p.m.: Arrival of refugees from Fort Ticonderoga.

5 p.m.: Arrival of General John Burgoyne.

Destruction of three of the last ships of the first United States Fleet. Two others were captured by the British.

Military action touched Skenesborough for the second time in the Revolution in 1777 when a battle was fought in the harbor on 6 July.

The Americans became aware that Fort Ticonderoga would fall into British hands on 5 July. At midnight of that day Colonel Long and his men of the New Hampshire Regiment gathered the sick from the hospital and started a retreat to Skenesborough. Believing that the iron chain and boom between Mount Independence and Fort Ticonderoga would halt the British ships for a while, they had a merry time coming up the lake first in bright moonlight and then in the following beautiful day, arriving at the harbor by 3 p.m.

Consternation struck when they discovered the British flagship Royal George with General Burgoyne aboard immediately behind them. The five remaining ships of the first United States fleet put up a spirited fight but could not hold out against the British ships.

Sloop Enterprise, the first British ship to strike its colors to the Americans in 1775, was burned. Schooner Revenge, built in Ticonderoga and row galley Gates, the last of the fleet to be outfitted in 1776, were blown up and burned. Row Galley Trumbull and schooner Liberty, built in 1772 by Philip Skene and the first armed vessel of the United States Navy were captured by the British.

The Whitehall Times
July 21, 1983

The Battle of Skenesborough - July 6, 1777
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

One of the events in Whitehall Revolutionary history for Celebration '76 will be the observance of the battle in Skenesborough harbor, 6 July, 1777. This is the story retold. When the Americans abandoned Fort Ticonderoga at the approach of the British, the inmates of the hospital and supplies were evacuated in the remaining ships of the first Navy fleet and many smaller boats. These ships were schooner **Revenge**, schooner **Liberty**, sloop **Enterprise**, row galleys **Trumbull** and **Gates**, and gundelo **New York [Success]**. **New York** loaded with powder in some manner was blown up before getting

clear. The others reached Skenesborough only to find that the British ships with General Burgoyne were right behind them. Philip and Andrew Skene had joined the British forces at Crown Point and were on board also.

In the battle that ensued row galley **Gates**, schooner **Revenge**, and sloop **Enterprise** were blown up and sank in the harbor waters, it is from these ships that many checker boards and other articles were made when the canal was changed over into Wood Creek and the pieces of wood were disclosed. Schooner **Liberty** and row galley **Trumbull** were captured by the British and used by them for many years.

From Skenesborough the invalids and other people fled toward Fort Ann while the jubilant Burgoyne settled down in Skenesborough House to stay for three weeks while his men prepared routes to take his men and artillery on the way to Saratoga. His troops settled on West Mountain, loop holed Skene's barn, were on Skene Mountain, and spread to the east.

Skenesborough was invaded again in 1780 when a small force came from Canada and burned Skenesborough House. Major Andrew Skene was in the force that helped to destroy his home.

The Whitehall Times **July 21, 1983**

July 6 - 26 1777 in Skenesborough **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

On 6 July 1777, two-hundred-six years ago, General John Burgoyne arrived in Skenesborough between three and four p.m. aboard the British Warship Royal George. Two other warships accompanied him with many gunboats. These ships had followed the Americans fleeing from Fort Ticonderoga when St. Clair abandoned the fort. Lieutenant Governor Philip Skene and his son Andrew, having caught up with the fleet at Crown Point, piloted the ships up the narrows to Skenesborough.

The warships, being too large, could not enter the harbor. The gun boats went on to destroy the remains of America's first naval fleet by capturing schooner Liberty and Row Galley Trumbull and blowing up and sinking Row Galley Gates, Sloop Enterprize (old spelling) and Schooner Revenge. British soldiers; were sent via South Bay over West Mountain in an attempt to cut off the Americans who were fleeing south to Fort Ann. Back in the harbor the saw mill and the iron works were immobilized and a fire crept up the side of Skene Mountain.

Burgoyne at some point had made the decision not to return to Ticonderoga but to continue his way to Albany by way of Lake George. If he returned, the Loyalists who were expected to enter the British side would not be supported. There was a scarcity of boats on Lake George and those on Lake Champlain would have to be carried over the portage. The distance covered would be almost the same to Fort Edward as from Skenesborough.

At daybreak on 7 July the commissionaires went on board Royal George to draw eight days' provisions for the troops. Strict orders were given that the provincials were not to be molested in any way nor possessions taken from them.

On 8 July Skene's house was made headquarters for General Burgoyne and a guard of 18 men was posted around the building. Thus Philip Skene became a "guest" in his own home. The forces of the army were deployed. On the west side of Wood Creek a brigade was placed with its right side to the rock near the woods and left to the fort on the hill near the site of the present Presbyterian Church. The German Dragoons were to be on the height in the woods and the Second British Brigade was placed in the fort. Five companies of the 24th Regiment were formed in the rear of the fort.

On the east side of Wood Creek, Specht's Brigade formed behind Skene's barn which they loop holed at this time for defense. The Hesse Regiment threw a picket into the barn and fortified a post on the summit of Skene Mountain with one hundred men. This made their right at Skenesborough House and their left to Specht's Brigade. The Corps, because of the terrain, camped in front of the line of battle. In case of a battle they would have to strike their tents.

On July 10 inventories were made of the powder, balls, and paper on hand and a budget prepared so that supplies could be ordered from Fort Ticonderoga to furnish each man with one hundred rounds. On this day also Burgoyne issued one of his manifestos to the inhabitants of the area. On 15 July they were to meet with Philip Skene at Castleton at 10 a.m., ten or more men at a time, to obtain encouragement from the British Government, to sign an oath of allegiance to King George, and to report their numbers of cattle, horses, oxen, and wagons.

To be continued

The Whitehall Times July 28, 1983

July 6 - 26 1777 in Skenesborough (Cont.) Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

On 10 July, General Fraser and his men came in from Hubbardton and took the place of General Reidesel's troops, who went up East Bay and the river as far as it was navigable. His first brigade was established there. The rest had to go by foot carrying their baggage and tents as there were no wagons or horses. Some were in the weeds three or four days. Some continued to the saw mills near Castleton.

On 11 July the disposition of the cattle received from the inhabitants was detailed as was the return of the ammunition. On this day also David Jones sent a letter to Jane McCrae at Fort Edward to stay with Mrs. McNeil to wait for him and not go with her brother southward.

It was discovered on 12 July that the officers had not complied with the order to send all their excess baggage by batteaux to Fort Ticonderoga. Burgoyne had promised them that when convenient, all their belongings would be returned to them. He appointed

Lord Viscount Petersham as his aide-de-camp whom all should obey as though he were Burgoyne himself.

Sunday 13 July was a day of rejoicing. Burgoyne had given orders for a celebration called a Feu de Joy, for the wonderful victory the army had had accomplished so far on their march. If the day was good, the tents would be struck and re-erected after the ceremony. The day was wet, however, but the ceremony was carried on into the evening; the cannons from the warships being fired and answered by small arms of the troops. This celebration extended from Castleton where the Hessians were stationed to Ticonderoga and Crown Point. Divine service was held in the forenoon.

On 14 July the clearing and rebuilding of the road south to Fort Ann was begun in earnest at daybreak and batteaux were drawn over the carrying place into Wood Creek. Other batteaux were sent to Ticonderoga to the General Hospital with the sick. To prevent the soldiers from being disorderly outside camp after retreat had been sounded, orders were issued that none could leave camp after gun firing. Patrols were set until daylight.

On 15 July Philip Skene in company with General Reidesel went to Castleton following Burgoyne's previous orders. There they received about 400 inhabitants who came to take an oath of allegiance to the King, and to receive promises of protection. Those who didn't sign the declaration would be unmolested if they obeyed the manifest and all their lands and possessions would be returned to them. Skene also presented each with a white feather to wear in their hats to show their loyalty. (At the Battle of Bennington the Rebels with the white feathers defeated the Hessians). A great number of these were not in earnest and came only to spy on the Loyalists and report to Colonel Warner. He sent men to plunder them, taking away their cattle and in some cases even the men themselves. Burgoyne listened to Reidesel, when he reported this, agreed to his plan of, protection, yet did nothing to keep the promises.

David Remington of Castleton was sent out to bring in carts and teams to camp from as far away as Danby and Tinmouth.

On 16 July the Second Brigade sent their baggage back to Ticonderoga. The army received four day's rations. The working parties and their covering parties were to continue.

Sunday fell on the 17th. On 18 July persons desiring huts or tents to sell commodities were to apply to the Adjutant General so that they would have a proper permit, especially those who trafficked in retailing liquor to soldiers and Indians. The Inspector of the Hospital requested two women from each battalion to take care of the sick and wounded. It was customary for wives of both soldiers and officers to accompany the army and were available as cooks, washer women and nurses.

To be continued

The Whitehall Times
July 1, 1971

July 7, 1777 in Skenesborough
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

7 July 1777 actual war combat came to Skenesborough Harbor. Two years before, 9 May 1775, the settlement around Skenesborough House had been captured by Green Mountain Boys and plundering had taken place. But the attack was so sudden and surprising that no fighting had occurred.

By 1777 the British had reorganized under General John Burgoyne. The Hessians under General Frederick Riedesel had joined them and both moved south on the Americans. Philip and Andrew Skene had sailed from England and joined the British at Crown Point, thus being on hand to guide the British fleet through the lower waters of Lake Champlain to Skenesborough.

Mount Defiance became a British lookout; Fort Ticonderoga was entered easily as the Americans had fled; and the boom across Lake Champlain between Fort Ticonderoga and Mount Independence was swiftly broken. The British officers with General Burgoyne moved up the lake while the main army marched along the east shore, stopping for the Battle of Hubbardton.

In Skenesborough Harbor were the last five ships of the first United States Navy, having fled from Ticonderoga with the sick. Although they waged a spirited battle, they were no match for the British warship ROYAL GEORGE and gunboats. Sloop ENTERPRISE was burned, row galley GATES and schooner REVENGE were blown up and burned. The row galley TRUM-BULL and schooner LIBERTY were captured and used by the British for many years. The vessels destroyed in the harbor were those dug up when the present canal was moved into the bed of Wood Creek. Many billiard sticks, canes, and checker boards were made from their bits.

A British soldier in saying that was "the end of the irresistible naval armament built last year" had forgotten that because of this armament he was a year late in reaching Skenesborough and had no way of knowing that the British Army would be defeated at Saratoga, a result of this same "irresistible armament built last year "

George Waller in his SARATOGA: SAGA OF AN IMPIOUS ERA slides over this part of Burgoyne's travels. He gives the impression that the General went over Lake George to Fort Edward and that the British Army with equipment and supplies went along the forest trails to join the troops at Fort Edward. He says "when the boats reached the southern extremity of the lake" but in the sentence before he stated that Ticonderoga was the southern tip of Lake Champlain. One wonders why Skenesborough history is so often omitted from historical accounts. Early researchers did not have access to all original manuscripts but so much has come to light that later researchers could be more accurate.

The Whitehall Independent

October 26, 1983

The Campaign of 1777 in Washington County

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

By three p.m. 7 July 1777, the British General Burgoyne, aided by a northerly breeze, had reached Skenesborough Harbor in H.M. Ship ROYAL SAVAGE accompanied by gun boats. Skenesborough was a "little timbered village" at the southern tip of the lake from which a narrow road cut south through-the forest to Fort Ann.

Burgoyne sent three regiments on land along the east side of the harbor in an attempt to stop the rebels fleeing along the narrow road. He moved on by ship to the harbor where the five remaining ships of the first United States Fleet lay. According to the British reports, the rebels blew up three of these ships (sloop ENTERPRISE, schooner REVENGE, row galley GATES) for they contained ammunition. The other two (schooner LIBERTY, row galley TRUMBULL) were captured and served in the British Navy for some considerable time. The houses at the waterfront were burned.

Mingled among the Loyalists were men who Von Riedesel knew were not what they pretended to be and that General Schuyler and Colonel Seth Warner were rallying the rebels to fight and scorch the countryside. A proclamation warned that "to give aid and comfort to the enemy would be punished as treason to the United States".

The Loyalists who had signed the Oath were threatened and "attacked in bitter and brutal raids". The fear of the British Indian allies also helped to win those on the fence to the rebel side. At this point the brisk decision: of General Burgoyne began to falter. The two hundred men sent up after the regiments toward Fort Ann could not hurry over the rugged territory. Colonel John Hill found himself outnumbered five to one and surrounded at the top of a hill near Fort Ann. A Tory, seeing the advance of the rebels and having the Indians refuse to support him, let out an Indian war whoop. The rebels, thinking British reinforcements were near, retreated toward Fort Edward and the British soldiers returned to Skenesborough. Back near Hubbardton, Frances Fraser had pursued the rebels fleeing toward Castleton. His force was saved by the Hessian troops under Von Riedesel who had marched into the fray with drums and men giving forth with a German hymn. The rebels once more retreated southward.

Burgoyne now had to call a halt in action and make other plans. He ordered the German general to locate his Hessians on a course toward Castleton, suggesting he was going to strike into New England (which had not been in the original plan). Burgoyne was now 120 miles into the colonial lands from St. Johns. Horses and transports had been too slow in arriving from Canada and he had to weaken his forces by leaving men to guard Fort Ticonderoga. The General also realized that he needed the assistance of the Loyalists, who had been arriving at Skenesborough, to obtain food and equipment for his army. He sent Philip Skene, at whose house he had made his headquarters and Von Riedesel to Castleton to gain support, giving the signers of an Oath of Allegiance to King George a white paper to wear in their hats as a sign of loyalty.

The Whitehall Independent
November 2, 1983

The Campaign of 1777 in Washington County (Cont.)
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In early July 1777, General Von Riedesel realized a crisis in the lack of supplies and equipment in the British Army. Having seen the rebels' reaction when he and Skene signed up the Loyalists, he devised an offensive "to attack the rebels". Burgoyne, although he approved the plan, delayed in giving his assent.

The General was having problems. His soldiers had been a long time without equipment and adequate food supplies. If he returned to his original plan, using the Lake George route, he felt he would lose face by "a retrograde movement" in a return to Fort Ticonderoga. The rebels had rolled huge boulders into Wood Creek to impede southward movement of heavy equipment. They had crisscrossed the narrow road to Fort Ann with felled trees and destroyed the many bridges over the marshes.

While his army toiled for sixteen days in unaccustomed labor in clearing paths through creek and forest, Burgoyne had stayed at Skenesborough House with friendly companions and physical comfort. On 23 July he gave the order for the army to march south, which they reached in four days.

Worse was to come. He reached Fort Edward by 29 July but had to wait for supplies from Fort George. On 3 August the preliminary report of the success of St. Leger coming from the west added a little light to the fact that only one third of the horses expected from Canada had arrived; the wagons constructed from green lumber were disintegrating; Carlton could not send troops to relieve those Burgoyne had left at Fort Ticonderoga; his men could not forage enough food because of the scorched earth policy of the rebels; he had had no word from General Howe saying he was coming up the Hudson with relief.

Now near Saratoga with only four days provisions for his men and only two boats on the Hudson, Burgoyne fell back on Riedesel's plan to attack the rebels around Bennington and Arlington. This time it was Riedesel who opposed the plan but Burgoyne sent Hessian Colonel Friedrich Baum eastward, first warning him of the delicacy of the situation.

Baum met strong resistance, especially from the "Loyalists" wearing white cockades in their hats. Col. Heinrich Breyman was ordered to Baum's assistance. He found Baum and his force obliterated. He himself had difficulty in retreating. The Indians with the British forces deserted.

Added to this defeat was the Indian massacre of the Allen family and the murder of Jane McCrae. This action gave a morale boosting effect to the rebel cause and they with many of the "Loyalists" rallied to the American forces.

The Whitehall Independent
November 9, 1983

The Campaign of 1777 in Washington County (Cont.)
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

General Burgoyne had now reached the boundary of Washington County and further action would be in Saratoga County. He had three courses open to him push onward to the south, stay where he was, or retreat toward Lake George. He had not been able to successfully send or receive word to Clinton to the South. The line of communication for men and equipment was closed from the Mohawk because Benedict Arnold had cut it off with the rout of St. Leger from the North and Lake George as the rebels had regained Skenesborough and Ticonderoga and had control of Lake George.

Burgoyne formed several plans only to abandon them through his hesitancy to put them into action. He finally decided to cross the Hudson River and meet the rebel forces thus occurred the battles of Freeman Farm or Bemis Heights. The stories of Arnold's great leadership which turned the tide of the battle, the sad tale of the brave British General Fraser, Morgan's use of his sharpshooters, the courageous actions of Madame Riedesel, the burning of General Schulyer's mansion, and the wolves on the battle field at night are all part of the story of Saratoga; the event that turned the revolt of the American colonies against the mother country into a world war.

The Whitehall Times
April 3, 1980

October 22, 1779
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Philip Skene and Andrew owned 56,350 acres of land in the area between Fort Ann and Westport. He had returned to England in the latter part of 1778 and he heard that his lands had been forfeited on 22 October 1779 by the State of New York. This Act of Attainder declared their property confiscated and warned that they should not be found in any part of this state. On 18 March 1780 the state issued bonds with security that included Skene's lands and in 1784 passed an act for the speedy sale of these lands with Alex Webster appraising them.

However, the Treaty of Peace of 1782 said that there should be no more confiscations of land and that provision for the restitution of the estates of real British subjects should be made. This treaty was ratified by Congress in January, 1784. Philip and Andrew were real British subjects. They had always remained loyal to their king and should have had their lands returned to them. But Philip was in England and Andrew was, in Canada. Evidently no machinery was set up to provide for the restitution.

Besides, the Town of Whitehall had stepped into the picture. A resolution was passed at 20 May 1783 town meeting that "any person in, America that went to the

British, voluntarily joined or took part against America shall be excluded and debarred from the privilege of citizenship." But "if any person having done so, but having been pardoned and can prove by certificate subscribed and attested to by some proper authority and have consistently proved themselves a good, and faithful friend to the freedom and Independence of America, he shall not be debarred." The resolution went on to warn the citizens of Skenesborough not to harbor or to employ anyone who had been an enemy to the Liberty of America on pain of the "highest displeasure of each and every of us inhabitants of this town and shall ever hereafter be esteemed unworthy to act in a publick office among us."

Philip and Andrew requested to return to their lands in 1785 but to no avail. It was sold piece by piece. A letter of Philip that asked permission to return to Skenesborough and be a faithful citizen was not sent. By this time he was resigned to his loss and began petitions to the English government for remuneration for the service and products that he had furnished the British while they were in America.

The lands were sold by the State of New at good prices, 35,000 acres went; for L20, 729.

The Whitehall Times March 20, 1980

March 21, 1780 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Skenesborough Post Burned March 21, 1780

Indian Raid Led by Andrew Skene

By 1780 Skenesborough was the most advanced post of the Americans. The forts at Crown Point and Ticonderoga were in ruins and the settlers along Lake Champlain had evacuated their homes.

In March, 1780, a draft of 60 men of the Washington County Militia, mostly from Cambridge and Salem, were stationed at Skenesborough House to guard this northern frontier. On 21 March their two-week draft was up but the succeeding contingent had not arrived. There were rumors that possible raids would come from the north but their provisions were low and the ice in the lake had broken up, making it seem unlikely that any raid would occur. The decision was made to leave 12 volunteers under Ensign Henry Lotip on guard until the other 60 men arrived.

However at 2 o'clock that afternoon the post was surprised by a force of 130 Indians under two French officers and one Joseph Bettis, a Tory from Ballston who had led the way over East Bay. One of the "French" officers was Andrew Skene who had been ordered on this painful duty to destroy his home by Major Carlton.

The men at Skenesborough House, knowing they could not hold out against the invaders, took off for Wood creek, hoping to get across by means of a boat and outrun their pursuers. They forgot that the boat had been drawn up on the shore and time ran out. Some took to the water but were ordered back under pain of being shot.

One Beebe was mortally wounded. The Indians wanted to scalp him on the spot but were restrained by the officers. He managed to crawl to a house a mile distant where he died in the night. James McKee of Cambridge was able to hide under a cake of ice hidden and supported by logs from which he emerged almost frozen when the Indians left. Two other men, Steele and Cagner, who had been able to outrun all the men, got across the creek and to safety. One man had been on the west side of the creek when the attack occurred and ran, all the way through the woods, reaching Fort Edward in 14 hours to spread the alarm.

The Indians plundered the area and then set fire to all the buildings which included --Skenesborough House, the barn, the store house, and two other wooden buildings. The remaining' force of Americans vividly remembered the sight of the burning as they were herded away to the north.

This was the end of the military post at Skenesborough at the head of Lake Champlain. This particular part of Skenesborough consisted mainly of Skene's buildings, home and industry with a few inhabitants' houses. Other parts of the town were located to the northeast, the southeast, and along Mettawee Valley. The Americans taken prisoners were deprived of their shoes, had to walk and carry the heavy loads of the Indians. Two days out of Skenesborough they arrived at Ticonderoga where the ice was still thick and traveling was easier. They were taken to Montreal where they were sold to the British at \$8 apiece. From there they were imprisoned at Chambly waiting to be exchanged. Two were able to escape through a window of their prison and reached Salem by walking at night and hiding by day. The rest were exchanged in 1782, the year of the Treaty of Peace.

The Whitehall Times October 15, 1981

1781

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The 200th anniversary of the Battle of Yorktown is being observed in many places this year. In 1781 the war activity had left Skenesborough. Its effects, however, lingered for a while. Just what was Skenesborough like during that era?

Its marshes and flats near the village had the bad reputation for malaria, ague and typhoid. One farmer near the Brick Church area was asked to trade his farm for an equal amount of land near the Landing. He refused, declaring he was not ready to die just then. Then there were the mosquitoes. Visitors spoke often of their size and thickness. George Washington's saying they were so large they could bite through the thickest boot is suspect, for Washington did not visit Skenesborough.

It is a little difficult to imagine the area now called Whitehall of the latter part of the 18th century. In 1772 when Skenesborough House and barn were constructed, the Landing had two houses and a few tenant buildings near the falls. In 1780 there were only eight houses in the village, four of them being newly erected. In 1790 Isaac Weld the great traveler saw but 12. Most businesses were located at Martin's Landing on East

Bay. In the town in 1773 there were 379 persons. In 1790, 17 years later there were 151 families with 797 souls.

The town held the population to the northeast, east and south of the Landing. The Book of Forfeitures shows these locations around the area. For example, Levi Stockwell lived on the bank of the Mettawee near the bend of Pangman's Hill. Simeon Stow lived on the west side of Wood Creek near the Virgil farm (Doris Clark farm). One family of McFerren's was dwelling on the north side of the Mettawee about a mile east of Gray's Corners.

David Brundage lived on the Jackson farm (the Wilson farm). Silas Granger had a saw mill on Castle Creek, the creek that came from Hatch Hill. George Ackley had his tavern on the site of the present Grand Union — the pre-Revolution house. This was outside the village limits then.

Although Skenesborough was made into a township 13 March 1765 the area was governed politically by a relationship between Philip Skene and his tenants, a patriarchal thing. After its capture 9 May 1775 it was in the hands of the American military authority. Skene's interests were protected by special overseers. From July to October, 1777, the British held the reins. Then the Northern department was under American militia control and a town government took over which elected its own supervisors, sometimes two or three at a time, assessors, town clerks, et al.

There was still a fear of British invasion from the north and the military commander begged the state for more protection. But when the raid came in March, 1780 only 13 men were on guard duty and the surprise attack soon scattered them. At this time Skenesborough House and barn were destroyed. Andrew Skene was one of the white men in the band of raiders.

After this period the men who had left Skenesborough gradually returned with their families. One immigrant was Rev. Cornelius Jones who preached in the open air, in groves, in barns or in log cabins of the pioneers before the White Church was constructed. Another was Benjamin Boardman who developed a shipbuilding yard.

Roads were laid out. The upper Turnpike ran out to the south up Pangman Hill and on to Granville. The new turnpike turned east at Gray's Corners and went on to Granville through the Hatch Hill district. The Hessian road in the north part of town crossed the Poultney River at Carver's Falls and went on to Castleton. Burgoyne's men hacked out a road to Fort Ann.

In 1783 state law enacted an annual town meeting. That year the town said Tories could not be hired except those who had been pardoned. State law passed the Act of Attainder and Forfeiture of property of many loyalists, among who were Philip and Andrew Skene.

In 1784 Alexander Webster began to sell 29,000 acres of their land to the highest bidder. It took him four years. His pay was 14 pounds and 10 shillings. Someone along the way said this was all he received for the land and historians copied the error, but the amount was near \$170,090. The state even issued bonds pledging as security the Skene lands. John Williams and Proudfit bought most of the land in the village.

In 1778 some people wanted to place the eastern part of Skenesborough in the Town of Hampton. It took three campaigns of voting before the question was settled. Some of Skene's 20,000 acres were in Vermont.

From this time on the village grew along the waterfront to Put's Rock and East Bay and manufacturing became an important way of life. The town retained the farms that are still tilled today.

The Whitehall Independent September 16, 1987

1781-1787

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Skenesborough in the Era before the Birth of the United States Constitution

In the immediate years before the making of the Nation's Constitution, Skenesborough was growing in government, population, and industry.

An attempt at secession had been defeated in 1781 in the northern part of the town and in the southeastern part; malcontents had asked Governor Clinton to pardon their attempt to join Vermont.

The first recorded minutes of the town began in 1782. This record book in the manuscript room of the State Library ends with the year 1811. When Cristfield Johnson wrote the Washington County History in 1877, he said this first book was lost and he used the second book, which is now lost. The practice of electing two supervisors was dropped. So many roads were coming into existence that three commissioners were elected and many overseers of roads or path masters were chosen. They tended the roads that ran in their neighborhood in lieu of taxes. Pound keepers were necessary to protect the commons from straying animals, and fence and damage viewers protected the people's land. Another office was that of overseer of the poor to help the town's poor and keep other town's poor from settling here.

Feeling still ran high over the Tories that lived in Skenesborough in 1783. The inhabitants resolved 20 May that any person who had served the King in any way was barred from citizenship in Skenesborough unless he was pardoned. This rule was applied to any one who hired or kept such people in their homes. Any such had to present a certificate. In this year also occurred the freshet that drastically changed the course of the Poultney River and East Bay

In 1779 the State Legislature passed an act of attainder and forfeiture of Loyalist property which included the Skene property. In 1780 the State borrowed large sums of money with this land as security. As a result in 1774 there was an act for the speedy sale of this property. In 1785 Skene's lands were sold not for fourteen pounds, which story historians have copied over the years, but for many thousands of dollars. The fourteen pounds was the surveyor's fee.

In 1786 occurred one of Whitehall's historical mysteries. The 1785 town meeting minutes used the name of Skenesborough but the 1786 minutes used Whitehall with no explanation. Nothing could have been more British; the reason given for the county's change from Charlotte to Washington was to "get away from all things British." It could not have been named for people as the Whites in town live out on Wood Creek Road and the Halls had not arrived.

Then came the year 1787, the year the State's delegates completed the Constitution of the United States, ready to be ratified. In that year Whitehall was firmly established as a township in Washington County, created by state law. Henry Francisco, 101 years old, was living in town. Lake transportation had not been developed commercially and the canal had only been thought of.

The Whitehall Times
October 5, 1978

The First Town Record Book-1783
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

On 4 April, 1783, the town board passed this resolution. It was still in the time of high feelings about the Revolution. Any person who had been, since the Declaration of Independence, in the power of the King of Great Britain, voluntarily joining and taking part against the Liberties of America should be debarred and excluded from being an inhabitant of this town (It was written Skenesborough).

However, if such a person who had been pardoned and could produce a certificate properly authorized saying he, she, or they had been good and faithful friends to the freedom and Independence of America; he would not be debarred from becoming an inhabitant.

Each and every person was required not to employ to work, harbour, or conceal any person who had been an enemy to the Liberty of America or any transient, straggler, or stranger unless that person could produce a lawful certificate. Any person who did so would incur the highest displeasure of the inhabitants of the town and would not be deemed worthy of any public office.

The Whitehall Independent
September 2, 1987

1787
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Whitehall in the Era of the Birth of the Constitution

Two hundred years ago on 17 September 1787, the Constitution of the United States was completed. All during the two hundredth year, 1987, an avalanche of pamphlets, contests, books, and local observances have appeared to remind citizens living under its protection of its origin. In the summer months from 25 May to 17 September 1787, fifty five representatives from thirteen states labored during the very hot weather in Philadelphia, without modern air-conditioning, believing that only in great secrecy could they produce the desired result, they secured privacy by creating a "no-man's" area around the building and swore themselves in a pact that allowed no one in the meeting to

take notes or discuss the questions outside. This allowed the members to make decisions without outside pressure. Only James Monroe took notes of the meetings that were not published until the middle of the 18th century. The official record contained only the barest details. Under these conditions these delegates, whose original purpose had been to revise the Articles of Confederation, completed a Constitution that the North American Review in 1898 declared "the most wonderful ever struck off at a given time by the brain and purpose of man" and that Franklin D. Roosevelt declared, "Our Constitution is so simple and practical that it is possible to meet extraordinary needs in emphasis and arrangement without loss of essential form. "This Constitution was signed 17 September by thirty-nine of its original delegates who were, contrary to general impression, mostly young, educated, urbane, and practical men from every walk of life.

What was happening in Whitehall during the period in history that led to the signing of our nation's Constitution? In 1759 Skenesborough was founded by Philip Skene. This settlement developed a farming population in a series of locations in Hatch Hill, the Elbow, Beaver Meadows, and along Wood Creek. Under New York State law the area became the Township of Skenesborough, 13 March, 1765. There is no official record of any political organization until 1778. Life seemed to flow along under a kindly overlordship of Philip Skene.

This condition changed, however, with the advent of the Revolution. After the capture of the community by the Green Mountain Boys in 1775, Skene's interests were guarded by overseer Noah Lee. In 1776 when the Revolution leaders commanded that a fleet be built in Skenesborough the town was under military direction. When General Burgoyne's forces came in 1777 the area came under British Military rule until the American victory at Saratoga.

The Whitehall Independent September 9, 1987

1787

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Whitehall in the Era of the Birth of the Constitution

Skenesborough was erected into a township by Philip Skene's first Royal Patent of 25,000 acres 13 March 1765. It proscribed a form of government with two assessors, one treasurer, two overseers of the poor, one collector, and four constables chosen every year on the last Tuesday of September.

Whether these requirements were met during the years 1765 and 1775 there seems at present no way of knowing. In 1775 after its capture by the Green Mountain Boys, the area was under American rule. Aaron Fuller was in charge of town affairs while Skene's interests were guarded by several men. In military affairs Paul Yeats had orders to keep the saw mill going. He was succeeded by David Waterbury, who had charge of the building of the fleet in 1776 by order of Congress.

With the arrival of General Burgoyne in 1777, British forces were in power. With advent of the Battle of Saratoga they were sent north, and the former inhabitants who had

fled to the south began to return to their homes. Only in 1778 was any formal government mentioned and this was from Corey Gazetteer of 1850 who reported that Daniel Brundige from the southeastern part of the town and Levi Stockwell from the Pangman Hill area parts of town were elected supervisors; James Burroughs from the east was chosen town clerk while Thomas Wilson, Joseph Earle, and Zarbulon Tubb from the Mettawee area were the three assessors. William Higby was the Constable. These men were some of the prominent officials in the town for many years.

In this period a military force of 129 under Captain Levi Stockwell was posted in Skenesborough to protect the frontier from the British and Indians who were roaming the Lake region destroying land and people. This force dwindled because of lack of State support, sickness, and furloughs to go home to tend to crops. In spite of the fact they had been warned of an attack over the lake, the force was reduced to fifteen. When the attack came over the mountain 21 March 1780 all but one of the force were captured and taken to Canada. This was also the time that Lemuel Bartholomew was captured, a well known story in Whitehall. The report of General Ten Brock told of the destruction of Skene's house and barn and one other house.

In 1781 forty one people from Skenesborough petitioned the General Assembly of Vermont to grant them a piece of land to the northeast of Skenesborough to be called New Cheshire. After a second petition the attempt was abandoned.

This brings us nearer to the time when the first record book of the Town of Whitehall began to list the activities of the government and nearer the time of the making of the United States Constitution.

Soldiers

**The Whitehall Times
February 4, 1971**

**Revolutionary War Soldiers
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

The Local History Sketches of former Town Historian Clarence Holden are extremely valuable for Whitehall's early history. He had interviews with older inhabitants during the years 1917 and 1918 who gave reminiscences of people and places that are almost impossible to obtain now.

Fortunately, he bound much material in 24 volumes and placed it for safe keeping in Albany New York State Library. However, many lists and references evidently were destroyed at his death and are now lost to us.

I have a set of these Local Sketches but the clipper neglected to place the name and date of the newspapers on them. It seems they were printed during the years 1917 and 1918 and in two papers, WHITEHALL TIMES and WHITEHALL CHRONICLE. The set reaches number 237. If anyone has these numbers, would he allow me to copy

them so that the file will be complete: 2, 16, 17, 27, 30, 31, 36, 46, 48, 50, 51, 75, 76, 78, 85, 105, 106, 119, 125, 156, 160, 168, 173, and 188?

From the papers I have listed the names of the Revolutionary soldiers as Mr. Holden found them. There are many more but perhaps this list will recall names to their descendants.

XXX

Several military organizations were active in this vicinity during the Revolution. Philip Skene was a colonel of militia before the Revolution. This service was where he obtained his title of Colonel. Many of the men in his group automatically went into other military sections when the war broke out.

Colonel Seth Warner headed a regiment of Green Mountain Boys. Captain Jeremiah was a captain of a company in Warner's regiment. Then there was a Company of Frontiersmen, a Charlotte County Militia, Provincials, and Rangers. Other men of Whitehall served in other theaters of the war besides this immediate area.

Thomas Boggs was a Whitehaller prior to 1772 until 1804 when he "went west" to Onondaga. He was a private, then orderly sergeant in Warner's Green Mountain Boys. He served in the Quebec campaign, was a lieutenant in the Rangers, a scout for Colonel Williams, and then, became a lieutenant in Captain Stockwell's company of Frontiersmen.

Daniel Brundige was a lieutenant in Skene's regiment of militia before the war. He became a second lieutenant in the Frontiersmen and then first lieutenant under Captain Silas Childs in the Charlotte County Militia. He also "went west" in 1809 or 1810.

Jeremiah Burroughs was a captain in Skene's militia but was re-commissioned a captain in the Provincial authorities. He received a fractured leg at the evacuation of Fort Ticonderoga and could not be in active service again. However, he received the brevet grade of lieutenant colonel for gallant conduct in battle. In 1780 as a member of the committee in charge of frontiers, he pleaded with the governor for a guard for Skenesborough against the enemy attack expected daily. Skenesborough's quota of men raised for this purpose had been sent south to Fort Edward. After a busy political life he died, probably in 1798.

The Whitehall Times February 11, 1971

Revolutionary War Soldiers Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

John Burroughs was a private in Seth Warner's Regiment of Green Mountain Boys. He was buried in Hatch Hill Cemetery according to S. B. Loomis's list of soldiers. This cemetery, the old Barney Cemetery, was read by members of the Historical Society in 1957 but his name was not there. However, in many of the early cemeteries slate slabs were used as headstones and the writing has been obliterated.

Mathew Burroughs (Burrows is the name was often spelled) was in the same regiment as John, and in Captain Jeremiah Burroughs company. He was discharged in Bennington, Vt., in 1779. He lived in the Kinner neighborhood on the present Comstock road but evidently "went west" with the group of Whitehalls who founded the community of Pike, N.Y. He died in Perry, N.Y.

Silas Child s was a captain In the Charlotte County Militia during the war. Afterwards he lived in Fort Ann and later in Granville.

Gershom Fuller is listed in the Government Pension Bureau as a veteran living in Albany, County in 1833.

Henry Fuller is named as a Revolutionary soldier but with no definite service. He was prominent in Whitehall political affairs 1783-1811, according to the Town Records. He served as fence and damage viewer, overseer of raids, and path master.

In 1967 "A Pictorial Treasury of the Marine Museums of the World" by Bryant Aymar was published. Its 470 photographs present ship models from the Ancient Egyptian barges to the present modern luxury liners, plus gear that belongs to the shipping world,

Marine Museum listings are included with highlights of each museum collection. Pages 59 and 60 contain pictures of Skenesborough Museum, the Revolutionary shipyard model of 1776 and a detail showing schooner LIBERTY and row galley WASHINGTON constructed by the late Edward Farmer for Whitehall's bicentennial and his one-fourth inch model of U.S.S. SARATOGA from the Battle of Pittsburgh of the War of 1812.

The Whitehall Times February 18, 1971

Revolutionary War Soldiers Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Levi Stockwell served in several capacities during the Revolution. He was a lieutenant in the Third and. Fourth New York Regiments of the Line (Continental); a captain in Colonel Van Rensselaer's regiment of Charlotte County Militia; and commanded a company in the Frontier lines.

In 1777 he was stationed In Skenesborough but when General Burgoyne came in July of that year, he went south with General Schuyler's forces. Later he succeeded with Colonel Willett in passing through the enemy lines and joined General Benedict Arnold in the confrontation with General St. Leger. To do this they had to find their way through swamps and trackless fields.

In May, 1779, he sent a report to Governor George Clinton from Skenesborough, where he had charge of the northern frontier. His letter is printed in the Public Papers of George Clinton. He reports that he had to send many of his men to Fort Edward and needed more for guard duty at Skenesborough and was worried over his men's pay.

When the raid occurred at Skenesborough in 1780 and Skene's buildings were destroyed, he was absent from the area.

Levi was a farmer who lived on a 340-acre farm south of Pangman Hill. He was supervisor in 1780 and later an assessor.

The Whitehall Times
February 24, 1971

Revolutionary War Soldiers
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

John Granger was a private in the Connecticut Line. According to Mr. Loomis' list he was buried in the old Skene Cemetery which, was located on the Foote farm and is now gone.

Silas Granger was an ensign in Captain Burrough's company. He lived in the Hatch Hill neighborhood and had a saw mill on the creek running down from there to the Mettowee. He held public offices of commissioner of roads and path master.

Isaac Harlow held the office of major in the 154th Regiment. His family gave their name to the Harlow district of Whitehall. He was a farmer, a justice of the peace from 1798 to 1815, and: a member of the state assembly in 1804-05. He held most of the other town offices from time to time; Overseer of Highways, school commissioner, pound keeper, overseer of the poor, assessor. He is buried in the Low Hampton cemetery.

The Whitehall Times
March 4, 1971

Revolutionary War Soldiers
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Thomas Lyons (Lyon) was a farmer who lived on the Turnpike road. In a memorial for recognition he enumerated his services:

"Appointed a lieutenant In Capt. Jeremiah Burroughs' company of Col. Seth Warner's regiment June 1776, and was bourn as part of the quota of New York. At the close of the year 1781 the regiment was deranged and the officers thereof permitted to return home till called for."

For this he was granted, 13 June 1793, 378 pounds, probably this large sum because his left leg was fractured at Ticonderoga 2 July 1777.

Thomas was a large Whitehall taxpayer and a prominent officeholder. According to town records from 1787 to 1811, he was assessor 11 years, fence viewer 1, overseer of the poor 6, collector 1, overseer of the highway 1. In 1801 he represented this district in the Constitutional Convention. Later he moved to Harbor Creek, where he is buried.

The Whitehall Times
March 11, 1971

Revolutionary War Soldiers
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Revolutionary soldiers listed so far from Mr. Holden's Local History Sketches have been those who entered service from Whitehall. Others served elsewhere and came later to Whitehall to live.

Such a soldier was the clergyman Cornelius Jones. Cornelius and his son (unnamed) joined the army, at the time of General Burgoyne's invasion, from Connecticut. They took part in the whole campaign and the son was killed in the Battle of Stillwater.

After the war Cornelius moved his family from; Myrsfield, Conn., to Whitehall in the northeast section known as Barthmytown. He was associated with the Congregational Church (the White Church) and became one of the town's most respected and honored citizens. We have a copy of a turnpike pass he could use on the Granville Turnpike. He is the one, according to the Rev. Mr. Kellogg's address, who dreaded going to Whitehall Landing. His cemetery stone, one of those in the area with a wise epitaph, lies broken in the Bartholomew Cemetery.

Mr. Jones was an author. This is an advertisement for the sale of his pamphlet published in the June 10, 1901 issue of "Northern Budget:" Jones' Pamphlet on Baptism published and for sale at this office and by the Author, at Whitehall (price 25 cents). "A History of Baptism" as practiced by believing Israelites and Christian Gentiles, one and the same Catholic Church of Christ, in which the origin, nature and use of Gospel Baptism, both of the subject and mode are promiscuously explained and proven — in humbly and impartially attempting a reply to Elder Haynes' "Scriptural Defense of Believers' Baptism by Immersion" by him inverted to Anabaptistry or re-baptizing — found to be indefensible by Scripture and Reason. By Cornelius Jones, A. B. Preacher of the Gospel of Christ in Whitehall, N.Y.

Facetiously, is this the title or the pamphlet?

The Whitehall Times
January 28, 1971

1772

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Pre-Revolutionary and .Revolutionary history for local communities is now in demand for the approaching Bicentennial of our nation. Already I have received requests for events in Whitehall for the year 1772 and many ask for genealogy of families of that time.

One avenue of approach for us might be Skenesborough's Revolutionary War soldiers. S. B. Loomis in 1924 compiled a list of soldiers buried in Whitehall's cemeteries. Information about the men in many cases is meager and the list is incomplete. Many people in Whitehall must have family tradition and Bible records of their ancestors who served in the Revolution.

The records of Skenesborough Militia seem lost. NEW YORK IN THE REVOLUTION gives a list of Charlotte County Militia among which is early family names of Whitehall. Elishama Tozer, friend of Philip Skene, was a captain. Other names listed on the State Treasurer's Pay Books were captains Silas Childs, John Thomas, James Willson; lieutenants Thomas Boges, Daniel Brundage, Ephraim Fuller; and among enlisted men, John Boyd, Abraham Foster, James Stewart, James and Robert Wilson

The Whitehall Independent **July 27, 1983**

The Hessian Soldiers - 1777 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Did you ever think about the life of the Hessian soldiers who went through our section of the country during the Revolution? Generally we know they were pawns of their political leaders who rented them out to the British to fight a war in a foreign country.

They came up Lake Champlain to Fort Ticonderoga in July 1777 and were set apart from the British troops on the Mount Independence peninsula. They were sent after the American soldiers fleeing on the east side of the lake July 5 toward Hubbardton after the withdrawal from Fort Ticonderoga. They marched into battle the next morning singing hymns in their guttural German Language. They have been described as entering battle near Bennington equipped in full regalia with heavy packs, peaked hats, heavy uniforms and high leather boots entirely unfit for the hot August weather. One of these boots was found along Wood Creek bank and is on display in Skenesborough Museum. They have been pictured as being so lonesome in this country that their line of march was encumbered with all kinds of wild animals they had befriended as companions.

What did the Hessians think of America and Americans? Fortunately many soldiers and officers wrote letters and diaries. From such written by German officers who were stationed in Castleton in July 1777 we have an inkling of their observations.

The descriptions of the people here was thus: The colonists are large, handsome, sinewy, well built, strong and healthy. The young women are white (i.e. fair), well formed and plump, and give promise of a numerous healthy progeny.

Their listing of crops and animals said: The grain, especially rye, is very good. The fields and meadows for the purpose of agriculture cannot be surpassed. The pasturage especially is very rich. The Canadian horses are 50 percent better than those found here, but on the other hand the horned cattle are 80 percent better than those found in Canada. The oxen found here would lose nothing in comparison with those in Germany. They plow and pull heavy loads and wagons in the construction of which no

wood or heavy iron is spared. The oxen pull them with the aid of a wooden yoke attached about their necks. The gardens are better and laid out on a more sensible plan than in Canada.

Philip Skene had prophesized that when the British army arrived the inhabitants would flock to the Royal Standard in droves. The German observations of this loyalty disproved this as did the American actions at Bennington. The Germans estimated that people in Castleton were 1/3 Royalists, and 2/3 Rebels. Of the area around, 1/6 were Royalists, 1/6 neutral, and 4/6 Rebels. Many of the houses in the area were deserted as their occupants had fled south from the British.

Of the colonists as soldiers, the Hessians explained: Their rifle men are terrible, but their muskets are very long. They load them with three small and three somewhat larger bullets, bad enough for those they hit, as many of the wounded would have three wounds instead of one. They also claimed many privates in the American army were superior in private life to their superior officers.

The Whitehall Times **April 1, 1971**

1777-1809

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Fuller family were tenants of Philip Skene. Those listed were Dr. Aaron (Sr.), Aaron (Jr.), Ephraim, Garsham, Henry, Dr. Ho., Jude (Judah), Matthew and Robert.

Garsham's and Henry's services have been given here. Aaron Sr., called Squire Fuller, was a quartermaster during the war. During the period 1782 to 1797 at various times he is listed in the town records as overseer of the poor, commissioner of highways and property owner. He represented Skenesborough on the Charlotte County Committee and was an assistant county judge. In 1777 he was one of the commissioners appointed on the seizing (illegal) of Skene's property and a delegate to the Vermont Legislature where there was a question of annexation.

Mr. Holden's "Local History Sketches" say Ephraim Fuller was a lieutenant in the Revolution and was an officer in the militia until he resigned in 1787. The town records show his appointments as overseer of the poor in 1784 and overseer of highways 1805, 1807, 1809.

S. B. Loomis's list of soldiers, add these Fullers: Elijah was a private in Warner's Regiment; Samuel was a quartermaster in Skenesborough Company; William was a private in the New Hampshire Line.

The Fuller family was a large one in early Whitehall history. There must have been intermarriages with other families so that there would be descendants living in town, even though no Fullers are listed in the present telephone directory.

The Whitehall Times
October 11, 1973

Caves
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Research is being done on all sorts of topics, not just big ones like the canal and packet boats, but such things as covered bridges and caves.

Mrs. Clyne from the Bronx is working on caves. She is interested in "people caves" as she calls them, not the commercial ones that have been developed. Her research is for small caves that are safe enough for non-splunkers to visit.

It would seem that with limestone on the east side of the canal, there would be such caves in the vicinity of Whitehall. One year two boys in an earth science class in high school reported crawling into a cave on the mountain and sitting cross-legged on the floor. They brought out a trophy, a stalactite from the roof which had taken nature many years to develop.

Inquiry for this researcher brought the information that once an escapee from Great Meadow hid for several days in a cave across the canal from the south bridge on Route 4 near the town line. I take it this would be on Tub Mountain.

Holden's Sketches mention a cave used in Revolutionary times by Squire Fuller. He had a price on his head of 1000 crowns and Tories and Indians were supposed to have searched for him. He did his traveling by night and "hid" in a cave on the edge of a dense swamp." His grandson reported: "Well do I remember my mother leading me and my two older sisters to the cave and telling us the story until the hair on my head would stand on end and every rustle of a leaf would appear to be the step of an Indian!"? The Squire's family spent many a night hiding in the woods when the Indians were prowling.

Mr. Holden thought the cave was on the old White place near the pond across East Bay below Carver's Falls. A lot description of Fuller's land suggests it was near Brundige land which was south of the village.

Anyone know - about Whitehall caves?

The Whitehall Times
March 18, 1971

1775-1833
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Other sources besides the Local History Sketches give some meager information about Whitehall Revolutionary War servicemen.

Seth Stow was a farmer who lived on the Comstock road. He was a soldier in Warner's Regiment.

Elishama Tozen was a tenant of Philip Skene and also a close friend. It is to him that Skene addressed a letter asking if the inhabitants of Skenesborough would allow him

to return. The letter was never sent. Elishama owned a large tract of land along the west side of Wood Creek between present Saunders and School streets. He became a captain in the Charlotte County Militia. After the war he was Skenesborough's representative in the Senate and Assembly, 1778-1780.

Ezekial Jones lived during the years 1755 to 1833. His tombstone in Boardman cemetery reads "As a patriot, the prompt discharge of the duties of a soldier through the entire period of the Revolutionary War is his best eulogium,"

Samuel McFerren was the son of John M. McFerren, Sr. He was taken prisoner during the war by the British, taken to Canada and died in Sorel Gaol. Doubtless he was a soldier, though the source doesn't say.

The list of soldiers will lapse for two weeks until I get back to my source material in Whitehall.

The Whitehall Times

May 6, 1971

1777-1848

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Another Stow from the Whitehall Revolutionary War list was Abijah. He enlisted at Albany in 1777 as a musician. In the 1790 census he is listed as having two males in his family under sixteen. He married 16 March 1786 to Lucinda Adams, daughter of Joel Adams. He is not listed in Whitehall's 1800 census and his pension record says he lived in Plattsburgh in 1818. Two years later he was in Franklin County, Ohio, and 11 March 1826 he died in Alexandria, Ohio. His wife survived him, living at Chazy, New York, in 1838 and in Bombay, New York, in 1848.

The Whitehall Times

May 13, 1971

War Stows

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

War Stows: Smallpox was a plague at Ticonderoga. The Army officers were very desirous of keeping it from the forces in Skenesborough where the Navy was being built. Forces from Rhode Island had been turned back because they had not been vaccinated for the disease. So we can understand this letter from Harmanus Schuyler in Skenesborough to General Gates in Ticonderoga:

"Pursuant to general orders which came to hand this day, I have sent a lad, who is a fifer in Captain Coughran's company, in one of the new regiments that is now raising, which lad has been lately to Crown Point with his father, and has taken the smallpox. The father of the lad is named Seth Stow, and the lad's name is Abiajah. In my opinion, the father of this lad, as being a recruiting sergeant, should be made to suffer for his

contempt of general orders. Your Honour will best know how to act when he arrives at Ticonderoga."

** May 20, 1971 correction: Last week's column had an error concerning smallpox carrying. The sentence contained the word NOT vaccinated. The sentence should read: **Forces from Rhode Island had been turned back because they had been vaccinated.** It was a practice to vaccinate soldiers and others who were in danger of catching the disease in hopes that they would not have it. The ones so vaccinated were kept in seclusion to prevent infecting others. An incident like this is described in Kenneth Roberts "Rabble in Arms."*

The Whitehall Times May 20, 1971

Captain Barnabas Matthews Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Another Revolutionary soldier and sailor who saw action in the war before he came to Whitehall was Captain Barnabas (or Barnaby as he is listed in the 1790 census) Matthews. He came from Yarmouth, Mass. and had been one of the Indians in the Boston Tea Party.

According to Holden, "Local Sketches," he served as a corporal in the coast guard defense in 1775 until taken prisoner and sent to Halifax. Exchanged in 1777 he enlisted as a seaman and was again captured. Later he was a private in Captain Ebenezer Baker's company and served on a "secret expedition." After the war he came to Whitehall to keep his boys from going to sea. He lived in northeast Whitehall, a large property holder. He and his wife, Desire Rider, are buried in Low Hampton Cemetery.

Noah Phelps

Noah Phelps was another true character in "Kathi of Skenesborough." According to Colonel Benedict M. Holden, U.S. Army Retired, the success or failure of the Fort Ticonderoga expedition depended on the information gained by Captain Noah Phelps during his intelligence mission to that fort 8-9 May 1775.

Captain Phelps was the man sent from Hartford by the Connecticut makers of the plan to take Fort Ticonderoga. At the Vermont "Council of War" he was sent on as intelligence officer to Ticonderoga. There, accepted as a Loyalist, of whom there were many in the vicinity, he spent the night at an inn and overheard British officers talk shop. Looking for a barber the next morning, he sauntered around the fort, chatted with Captain William Delaplace who told him that not only could the Americans gain entrance to the fort through a break in the wall but that all the British powder was damaged. Before use it would have to be sifted and dried.

Phelps got his shave and made his way to the lake where he helped his Tory boatman row him across. He reported the holes in the wall, the ease of approach, the

enemy strength and lack of security to the American staff conference in the afternoon of 9 May. He doubtless was the Father of G2."

Not to take glory from Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold but as Colonel Holden wrote: It must be admitted that when Colonels Allen and Arnold stood fearlessly under the British cannon they were well aware of the British inability to fight back -- short of throwing rocks or calling for a bayonet charge. The American colonels were betting on a sure thing, thanks to the completion of his staff function by Captain Noah Phelps, AC of S, G2.

Noah, after service in grade in the Continental Army through 1777, was made lieutenant colonel, Regiment 18, Connecticut Militia, in 1778 and promoted to colonel in May, 1779.

The Whitehall Times April 22, 1971

1790

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In the list of Whitehall's Revolutionary soldiers is Abner Blanchard. Abner and Aziel were some of Skene's tenants. In the 1790 census Abner and Charles are listed; Adonijah and Abeather were here in the early 1800's.

Abner Blanchard served under Colonel Seth Warner and Captain Brounson during the Revolution. Abner's service for his pension record was certified by Charles Blanchard and Elishama Tozer, both of whom had gone to Tioga County. Abner was 83 years old in 1820 and his wife, 72. He was a cooper by trade.

The Whitehall Times June 17, 1971

Area Genealogies

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Mrs. Fred Stiles of Fort Ann is a compiler of area genealogies. She has done a terrific amount of work and is very generous in sharing. Presently she is searching out material on Revolutionary War soldiers with John Hunt of Arlington, Va., who has conducted a search of Pension records over at least a period of ten years. From this list more Whitehall names can be added.

Samuel Adams of Hampton is listed in New York in the Revolution.

Ameil Alger was a later Whitehaller but served in the war from Kingsbury.

Christopher Andrews came to Whitehall about 1780, living on the Wood Creek (Comstock) Road. He moved to Queensbury about 1795 but had served in the war from Connecticut or Massachusetts.

Samuel Atwood, born In Hardwick, Mass. 25 July 1756, did service as a private in Connecticut. A year after the close of the war he came to Whitehall and lived on the Wood Creek Road on the Eastman Farm (Whose is this now?) and was buried there. His son Samuel Jr. was buried in the Williams Street Cemetery.

Solomon Austin was in Whitehall in 1781. He served from Vermont.

Zephaniel was in Sheffield, Mass, service. He came to Whitehall in 1783 but moved to Cato and Ira, N.Y., where he died in 1835.

The Whitehall Times

June 24, 1971

“KATHI OF SKENESBOROUGH”

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

There were other real people Miss Curtis used In KATHI OF SKENESBOROUGH that made the book a historical novel.

Zaddock Remington owned a tavern in Castleton, Vt., at which Benedict Arnold and Ethan Allen met to discuss plans in 1775. Two years later Philip Skene sat on the Common in front of the tavern to take Oaths of Allegiance to the British King from the nearby inhabitants.

Gershon Beach was a Vermonter with a reputation for long distance endurance. A historical document says he was a friend of Andrew P. Skene and visited Skenesborough House. Supposedly he ran sixty miles through the woods of Vermont, a la Paul Revere on foot, to arouse the men to meet at Hands Cove for the attack on Ticonderoga. A descendant of his told me, laughing a bit, that this was a family tradition.

Remember Baker captained a company of soldiers. He had an active part in the New York-Vermont controversy over land. He was killed by Indians while on a scouting trip down the lake to St. John's just before the Battle of Valcour.

Captain Noah Lee came from Castleton, Vt. With the capture of Skenesborough, the Americans wanted to continue the work of the iron forge, the sawmill and to protect the property at the place. Captain Lee was chosen to be in charge of this project.

Captain Elisha Sheldon of Salisbury, Conn., Captain John Bigelow of Hartford, Conn., and one Oliver Wolcott were in charge of the Skene ladies on their return from Salisbury through Skenesbourough and on to Quebec. Their payment for this service came years later.

The Whitehall Times
January 23, 1975

Green Mountain Boys
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Searching names of the Green Mountain Boys who accompanied Captain Samuel Herrick to Skenesborough 9 May 1775 is a difficult task. To date I can list these from lists compiled by researchers many years ago. Accounts of the expedition say that there were 30 men with the captain.

Samuel Blagden of Salisbury, Conn., was with the party at Castleton and went to Skenesborough.

Col John Bigelow of Hartford, Conn., went to Skenesborough with Col. Herrick. These titles came later in the war. This man accompanied the Skene ladies on their return from Hartford, where they were taken as prisoners, to Canada where they were later allowed to go.

Captain Noah Lee was with Ethan Allen's party at Castleton. He was sent with the command that captured Skenesborough. Later he was put in charge of Philip Skene's estate with Elisha Phelps. His grandson erected a monument for him in Castleton.

Josiah Dunning of Pownal, Vt., enlisted in a volunteer company which marched to Castleton and was one of the party that went to Skenesborough.

William Nichols of Hartford, Conn., was clerk of the War Committee. He went to Skenesborough and probably kept Romans' accounts of disbursement on the expedition.

Capt. Elisha Phelps of Simsbury, Conn., was a brother of Noah Phelps (the spy who had entered Fort Ticonderoga previously to its capture). He was commissary of the party that went to Skenesborough.

Capt. Samuel Herrick was with the expedition at Castleton and was sent from there to Skenesborough in command of the expedition directed against the establishment at that place.

The term "Green Mountain Boys" has been applied to the men that captured Skenesborough and Fort Ticonderoga but they did not all come from the State of Vermont or those mountains. In reading the rosters one can see the names of settlements in other areas settled at that time, for they came from the south and east to help in the struggle.

The Whitehall Times
May 29, 1975

General Richard Montgomery
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Our Lake Champlain valley is truly historic. Revolutionary events occurred here during the three-year period, 1775 to 1777, and in occasional instances in later years. Reenactments and commemorations will be frequent in Skenesborough and neighboring communities.

Places are marked because a funeral train of some person stayed in the community overnight like John Brown at Elizabethtown and Abraham Lincoln in Albany. Whitehall has a similar event in the case of General Richard Montgomery in 1818.

This fall, 1975, a commemoration of General Philip Schuyler's and General Richard Montgomery's attempt to obtain the alliance of the Canadians will take place to the north of us. People will cross Lake George on the steamer Ticonderoga and take bus at the front of the lake to follow in a short week the route taken in 1775 that covered almost six months.

These two generals had been placed by General Washington in command of the Northern Department 3 July 1775. Ships were being constructed at Ticonderoga and Crown Point where forces were assembled. On 30 August, Montgomery left Crown Point and bivouacked at Westport (Bessboro) that night. The next day he traveled down the lake guided by Settler William Gilliland to Isle LaMotte where the troops waited for General Schuyler until 4 Sept.

The ill health of General Schuyler was a blessing in disguise for the American troops. He was forced to return to Ticonderoga where he was able to procure desperately needed food and supplies for the army. Like so many of the American campaigns this one was plagued with lack of food and clothing, bickering officers, smallpox and rebellious men. Only the great generalship of Montgomery kept the expedition on its way.

The army left Isle LaMotte on 4 Sept. There was knowledge that the British were constructing ships to enter Lake Champlain, a schooner and a large row galley among them, at St. John. Montgomery had available to his command schooner Liberty, sloop Enterprise, and ten bateaux. These he used to keep the British from coming south. In shelling operations above St. John on 14 Oct. the Americans sank the British schooner at the wharf. When the fort was captured 2 Nov. this ship became theirs. It was raised and sent to Crown Point where it arrived 17 Nov. From it Henry Knox took the cannons and carried them to Cambridge, Mass.

This captured schooner was the Royal Savage. This had been its name and the American attempt to change it to Yankee was unsuccessful.

The Americans went on to capture Montreal 12 Nov. Meanwhile Benedict Arnold was crossing the land from Maine to rendezvous with Montgomery at Point au Trembles. The Canadians had not joined the Americans as hoped for. Although smallpox and other disasters had decreased the forces of the two men, they decided to attack Quebec. The attempt made in a blinding snowstorm 31 Dec. 1775 was disastrous.

General Montgomery fell in the early part of the fight and General Arnold was taken from leadership with a severe wound in his leg. Deprived of leadership, the Americans were forced to retreat.

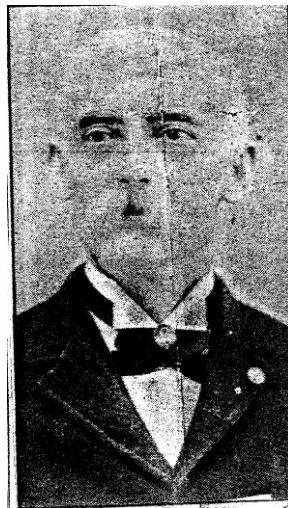
The body of Montgomery was recognized in a guard house where it was taken from a snowdrift with 13 of his men and buried near the ramparts of Quebec. His death was mourned by Americans and British alike for his genius had been shown in earlier wars. In July 1818 the New York State legislature asked the removal of the body to his native country and the Canadian governor-general consented. The lake steamer Phoenix, draped in mourning with her flags at half-mast, bore the body over Lake Champlain to Whitehall. Here it lay overnight in a small building on the east side of Wood Creek. The next day it continued south and lay in state in the capitol at Albany. As the remains passed his home on the Hudson River, his widow of 42 years watched from the porch above the river. She lived until 91 years of age.

Amid services, both civil and military, the remains were buried near the monument, which earlier had been erected in his memory by Congress, in the churchyard of St. Paul in New York City.

The Whitehall Times ?????????

**Col. Luke H. Carrington
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

I am assuming this is a Times article. There is no information on the sheet. kb



Luke H. Carrington was born in Whitehall, N. Y. From September 28, 1859, to July 12, 1861, he was in the city of Memphis, Tenn. He then returned to Whitehall and enlisted in 1862, and served all during the war, being engaged in nearly all of the prominent battles. After the close of the war he went to New York, where he was engaged in railroading until about 1869 when he returned to his native town and operated canal boats for a number of years. After his return he was appointed Deputy Collector of

Customs, and later was appointed inspector of canal boats on the Champlain Canal, and as also interested in the retail shoe business at the stand now occupied by M. C. Barker. He is a member of Phoenix Lodge, No. 96, F. & A. M., Champlain Chapter, No. 25, R. A. M., and Washington Council, No. 52, and Washington Commandery, No. 53, K. T., also Oriental Chapter Shiners, of Troy, N. Y. Mr. Carrington is now upward of seventy years of age, hale and hearty and is one of the public spirited citizens of Whitehall and made the presentation speech at the flag rising and dedication of the New Riverside Park on July Fourth. He is at present managing the annual excursion of the Masonic Lodge to Plattsburg on August 5 and is the manager of nearly all of the social events of the Masonic Lodge in the village and any event fathered by Uncle Luke is conceded to be a success.

**The Whitehall Times
December 11, 1975**

**Burroughs Family
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

The second sawmill in Skenesborough was one on Castle Creek, a tributary of the Mettowee. This belonged to Benjamin Burroughs (Burrows). The site later held an axe helve factory. The Burroughs family were Revolutionary soldiers.

**The Whitehall Times
February 19, 1976**

**Women in the Revolution
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

More and more material on women's little known part in the Revolution and before is being researched and printed.

Linda Grant DePauw's pamphlet **Four Traditions** describes briefly women in New York from the Iroquois, Dutch, African and English societies with their participation in economic, political, military, social, religious and intellectual life while Elizabeth Evan's book **Weathering the Storm** tells eleven women's parts from their diaries and journals. These are but two examples. Here are stories of women as spies, as soldiers, as early workers for women's rights, as homemakers, as farmers, as business women, as preachers — all the many occupations women have taken part in. The few Molly Pitcher and Jane McCrae stories have blossomed into Lydia Darrah's spy work, Abigale Adams' women's freedom campaign and Phyllis Wheatley's poems, to name a few.

The lot of the ordinary women never reached spectacular heights. It was a life of terror and anxiety in a frontier in war time. When the British Army reached

Skenesborough, it was augmented by women camp followers. This should not be interpreted as a derogatory term. These were the wives of officers and soldiers who faced danger and hardships to be with their husbands. They cooked, sewed, nursed the wounded — did anything necessary to ease the hardships of this type of life.

Stories of Skenesborough's women's part have to do with the waiting and watching that is the lot of so many women in time of war.

Consider the wife of the Rev. Hopetill Bigelow who lived in the Hatch Hill area. With other families she took her children for safety, when rumor came that the British were near, to Sandy Hill. While she and her husband returned to Skenesborough to harvest crops left behind she heard of her three daughters being taken to Canada by Indians.

What a harsh experience must Robert Gordon's wife had when she had to break up her home, destroy her possessions and run to - Canada to start a new life.

Aaron Fuller's wife was left alone to protect her children while he, with a price on his head which the Tories and Indians were trying to collect, did his work at night and hid in a cave by day. When the Indians prowled at night she hid the children in the forest or under logs or walked the floor with her gun, peering out peepholes to see if the Indians were near.

Ann Wilson Bartholomew lived through the agony of knowing only that her husband had been taken prisoner by the Indians.

William Button's wife faced a foraging party of British soldiers with a musket when they attempted to drive off her cattle.

Women, as well as men won this War of Independence.

The Whitehall Times **August 18, 1977**

Lafayette **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Items on Lafayette's visit in Whitehall have been in this column before. This is added information found in the obituary of Mrs. Laura A. Martin.

Steven Carver delivered an address before the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor of the Presbyterian Church to which Mrs. Martin belonged and from which her age at death was tolled, four score and one strikes.

Mr. Carver reminisced about his Sunday school teacher, Hiram Eddy:

"This Sunday school was the only Sunday school in town when General Lafayette visited in 1824. The school children marched at the head of the procession. The girls were dressed in white with blue sashes. On their heads they wore wreaths of flowers. As they passed on to the west side of the bridge, where now the foot bridge spans Wood Creek, the school children filed off on either side to let the distinguished guest and his escort pass. The girls strewed flowers, which they carried in small baskets, on the roadway before Lafayette, for him to walk over, thus blending patriotic gratitude with modesty and reverence."

Some of the little girls were named, Mrs. Martin, formerly Laura A. Jillson, being one of them. Mr. Carver continued:

"He (Lafayette) was received at Dunham's Tavern the wooden building now adjoining the Hall House (site of the Elks building) known latterly as the residence of D. P. Mye. A bevy of little bits of girls, one of whom was the daughter of mine host, Miss Sarah Dunham, was anxious to see the hero of the day. She was raised up to the window where sat Lafayette. As she spied him, she exclaimed to the others, "There he is, I see him at that instant he was attracted to her and reaching out of the window, he took her in his arms and kissed her. Ever afterwards it was her greatest pride to boast of the honored favor, she was kissed by General Lafayette."

This story was repeated to the Historical Society of Whitehall when Miss Eddy presented it with the wine glass that Lafayette had given one of these little girls. It is a small clear glass.

This obituary was written in January, 1898. The Alwyn Mansion stood at the head of Division Street on Church Street.

The Whitehall Times December 30, 1971

Benedict Arnold Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Whitehall's Revolutionary importance is closely allied with Benedict Arnold whose name was synonymous with traitor. Debunkers have attributed to him all the meanness of a small person while glorifiers have emphasized a gigantic hero. The truth lies in between. His traitorous act cannot be condoned but the important things he did for his country can be acknowledged. Although a series of injustices inspired by the jealousy of smaller men led to his undoing, perhaps he, as the old soldier said, ought to have been true.

Benedict Arnold was a rash, reckless person who delighted in the excitement of battle and struggles involving great risks. He was bold and loved dangerous actions.

Arnold learned army life in his teens and acquired sea knowledge through the ownership of ships which he commanded himself. Thus he was suited for both the army and the navy.

His early Revolutionary War experiences Whitehall has often heard. At the time of Lexington and Concord he was captain of the Governor's Guards, a group of 58 members. His leadership always inspired the best in the men under his command and they performed prodigious feats for him.

At this time the two plans for the capture of Fort Ticonderoga were formed. The Massachusetts Committee of Safety appointed Arnold colonel, authorized him to raise troops, and promised him supplies. Unable to await the slowness of enlistment, he delegated the raising of the troops and hastened to Castleton where he found Ethan Allen ready to go with his Green Mountain Boys. After heated arguments, the two men agreed

on a joint command find so entered defenseless Fort Ticonderoga which became a vital American point

Meanwhile his marines and sailors had caught up with him and he sent them to Skenesborough to obtain the ship Katherine. The Green Mountain Boys were to have sent her down the lake but became too engrossed in plundering. Renaming the ship Liberty, Arnold and his men outfitted her as a warship and sailed down the lake to capture the first British ship to strike colors to the Americans, Enterprise,

Shortly after this occurred the first indignity to Arnold. Complaints, inspired by jealousy, sent to Massachusetts outweighed Arnold's word and a committee was sent to investigate his conduct (after all he had accomplished) and to place him under a junior officer. His fiery spirit could not withstand the insult and he resigned, supported by the men under his command.

A list of other disappointments make, almost, unbelievable reading which will be listed later.

The Whitehall Times **January 6, 1971**

Benedict Arnold **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Outside Skowhegan, Maine, stand three large billboards beyond which tourists can glimpse Skowhegan Falls on the Kennebec Falls. These boards, erected by the Arnold Expedition Historical Society, contain a picture, map and narration, the heartrending story of Arnold's military expedition from Newburyport to Quebec in 1775-76.

Congress consented to an invasion of Canada from the east and General George Washington, well acquainted with Arnold's energy and ability, appointed him commander-in-chief of the forces with the rank of colonel. Arnold immediately gathered all the information he could about the terrain, and the provisions, the ammunition, and artillery he would need. His plan was to ascend the eastern branch of the Kennebec, portage to and ascend the Dead River to the source of the Claudiere River and go down it to the St. Lawrence.

The story of these 1100 men in 14 companies who were willing to follow Colonel Arnold is heartrending; wading through swamps and in icy water up to their armpits, carrying all the luggage and boats across 17 portages around rapids or up steep precipices, hacking their way through virgin forest, beset by hunger, they followed Arnold who led them by example and courage.

The disasters in Canada in 1775-76 where the beloved Richard Montgomery was killed are well known. For the gallant conduct of storming Quebec, Colonel Arnold was later promoted by Congress to the rank of brigadier general. This was one of the few times he received recognition for his efforts.

After Arnold reported to General Schuyler on his seven months in Canada, he returned to the Lake Champlain area and soon entered the project that resulted in the

Battle of Valcour. This defeat, really a victory, was told and retold and Arnold's praises sung around the country.

But this sweetness soon turned sour under a humiliating experience, the second that assailed him. Congress created five new major general ranks, which appointments they filled with men who were Arnold's juniors in rank, one man even being from the militia. General Washington was horrified by this injustice and hastened to write Arnold begging him not to act rashly until Washington could investigate and rectify the matter.

Arnold's reply to Washington is a masterpiece in restraint. He acknowledged Congress' right to appoint junior officers over him but felt it was their way of asking for his resignation which he was willing to give when he could no longer serve his country with honor. However, he waited until Washington discovered that Congress would do nothing before starting out to appear before Congress to demand an explanation. But this action terminated when he entered the fourth brilliant execution of daring for his country.

The Whitehall Times January 13, 1971

**Benedict Arnold
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

On his way to visit Congress resolved to demand an explanation of his conduct that resulted in passing him over for rank of major general, Arnold passed through Danby, Conn. which had been burned by the British. Forgetting his wrongs, he hastened to join Majors Sullivan and Worster to barricade the roads and harass the enemy, with 500 untried militia, against 2000 disciplined British troops. Risking his life time and again, he rallied the men and stayed with them until the British had retired to their ships.

For this bravery Congress immediately gave him the title of major general but withheld the rank, another insult that General Washington viewed in the same light. Washington lightened the blow somewhat by giving him command of the Northern River Army. His recommendation read, "He (Arnold) is active, judicious, and brave and an officer in whom the militia will repose great confidence." General Schuyler, too, appreciated his value and urged him to stay in the service, using the absolute need of the country for his services.

Soon after this Arnold volunteered to lead 800 men sent to the aid of American forces around Fort Schuyler after the Battle of Oriskany. Here by a clever stratagem, he was able to relieve the garrison. Now came his labor at Saratoga to where he returned. General Gates commanded the left division and General Arnold the right. Arnold's division under his impetuous leadership held the day of 19 September until British reinforcements arrived. Rushing to rally his men, he was recalled by Gates who had not entered the field and refrained from reporting any of Arnold's action that day, even though the whole army gave Arnold and his division credit for the battle.

After a bitter quarrel Gates took Arnold's division from him, leaving him without a command. When the battle was joined again on 7 October, Arnold could not stand the inactivity and rushed into the fight. Gates attempted to recall him but aides could not

catch up with him. Charging, rallying his men, always in the front line, galloping his horse before his men in the line of fire, he remained until the battle was won but he himself lay with a shattered leg. For this action Congress grudgingly gave him his rank. From here on his star began to decline rapidly. Bedeviled by jealousy by men who should have been his friends, beset by feelings of frustration, sentenced by Congress to be reprimanded by his commander-in-chief, he became a lost man.

No one really knows what one would do in his place. So many people in the Revolution straddled the fence and jumped only at the last minute to the side that best suited their interest. America owes Benedict Arnold much for the great services he rendered. The Arnold Committee of Norwich, Conn. have succeeded in having the school children of that community know it was his birthplace, after the Board of Education had had it removed from the textbooks, and are endeavoring to show some of his patriotic exploits as is the Arnold Expedition Historical Society. Skenesborough Museum has a picture of Arnold in its hallway, a tribute to his building the first United States Navy in our harbor. Arnold lived the latter part of his life maimed and dammed, despised in the United States, Canada and Great Britain. Again in the words of the old soldier, "But he ought to have been true," but we can understand in some small way and acknowledge what he did do for his country.

The Whitehall Times November 6, 1975

Benedict Arnold Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Skenesborough's place in history has been blurred and slighted because of its association with the hero Benedict Arnold who became a traitor. With the coming of the Bicentennial celebration of the building of the first United States fleet a summary in both phases of this man's life might be of value to those who are interested. The following material is taken not from biographies, which seldom can be impartial, but from an historian's information gathered from original documents.

The first phase of Benedict Arnold's life contains the many accomplishments that made him a hero revered in the eyes of his followers and his superiors. His military career began at the age of 16 when he enlisted in a New York company that was, organized for action against the French. Two years later he was a member of a company that gave him acquaintance with the lake country in northern New York. After he completed an apprenticeship as a druggist he opened his own store and became prosperous. With this prosperity he became a merchant, owning his own ships. Sailing them himself, he became versed in seamanship.

In 1774 he was elected captain of a militia company in New Haven, Conn. He deplored the action of the British soldiers at the Boston Tea Party and rushed his company to Cambridge at the time of the Lexington and Concord affair. At this time he met and discussed with Lt. Parsons the importance of Fort Ticonderoga and Skenesborough. He presented this idea to the Massachusetts Committee of Safety.

This body made him a Massachusetts colonel and ordered him to collect forces to capture these places and the British sloop on the lake, and to collect cannon to raise the siege of Boston, which weapons later Henry Knox took to Cambridge. This campaign he carried out, assisted in capturing Fort Ticonderoga, armed the captured Liberty, the first ship of the U.S. Navy, and took the first British ship Enterprise, to strike to the Americans, at St. John. During the summer of 1775 these ships kept Lake Champlain free from invasion.

In September, 1775, Washington gave him command of the expedition through Kennebeck, the wilderness, and on to Quebec. This was a heartbreaking undertaking from September to 11 November, its success hinging on this leader's leadership. He joined General Montgomery in the unsuccessful attempt on Quebec which resulted in Montgomery's death and Arnold's knee wound. Although he asked to be relieved from the accounts of the army, he was refused. On 17 June he was the last man to leave the Canadian soil with his retreating army.

To keep Lake Champlain from the threatened British invasion in 1776 Arnold was placed by Generals Schuyler and Gates in charge of its defense. Skenesborough knows the story of the building of the fleet in its harbor that year and its action in October. On 23 December, 1776, Arnold was ordered to Providence to aid Sullivan against Clinton. On 27 April 1777 with 500 half-trained militia men he harassed 200 British regulars on their retreat from Danby to the Sound. For this he was made a major general but he was still below the five men who had been promoted over him. On 11 July 1777 Arnold resigned his army command. On the same day Washington asked Congress to send Arnold to command the northern forces under Schuyler. Although Arnold requested the suspension of his resignation, Congress refused it. In August of the year Arnold offered to lead a volunteer expedition to stop Colonel St. Leger who was coming from the west to meet the other British forces at Albany. Other leaders had thought this impossible. On 24 August by bold strategy he defeated the British. Loyalists and Indians, saved Fort Schuyler, and cut off this prong of Burgoyne's plan of invasion.

Back at Saratoga he was under the command of General Gates. In charge of the Americans left at Freeman's Farm on 19 July he attacked the advancing British instead of waiting for their advance. General Burgoyne declared that only this action saved the Americans from absolute defeat, but General Gates did not see fit to report this action.

On 7 October Arnold who had been denied further command rushed from his tent and leading the Americans against the British stemmed the tide of British action. Here he received the wound that hampered him the rest of his life. Congress restored his military rank and security. At this point Arnold's star began to decline but these actions made him a hero in the eyes of his fellow Americans.

As the old soldier said, "He ought to have been true." Only knowledge of the many rebuffs he received can begin to explain in some slight manner his treason.

The Whitehall Times
November 6, 1975

Benedict Arnold
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

To provide a defense by saying "Everybody else does it" is weak. But business methods in the late 1700's were a pattern followed by all, including Benedict Arnold. The great influence in Arnold's life was his innate character.

Of good lineage, Benedict Arnold was original, even audacious, in planning and quick to put his plans into: action. He was personal in his judgments, not understanding why anyone could object to his wishes. Ethan Allen, John Brown, Moses Hazen became his enemies because he objected to their plundering. General Gates at one time said of him, "The United States must not be deprived of that excellent officer's service," and Nathaniel Greene said Arnold "is a spirited fellow and an active general."

In campaign planning and in battles Arnold was leader of men who gave him their devotion. Impatient, arrogant, quick to resent aspersions directed at him, he was fair in his judgment and ready to give credit to his associates, although fairness was not returned to him. A wealthy merchant, he threw his own money and that of the government's into his military projects and could not understand the animosity of his associates and that of Congress to dismiss neutral investigations into his accounts. His enemy, John Brown, was more prophetic than he knew when he said: "Money is this man's god and to get enough of it, he would sacrifice his country."

After performing his instructions in 1775 of taking Skenesborough and Ticonderoga, securing the sloop at St. John's, and gathering cannons for Boston; Arnold was astonished to find the Massachusetts Committee of Safety sending a committee to supersede his command at Ticonderoga and .investigate his actions because of political reasons — Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Hampshire Grants had invaded New York's property and they wanted no blame for the action.

In command of the forces in Canada in 1776 after General Montgomery's death, he asked to be relieved of the military accounts. His request was refused but later he was accused of embezzlement of the military supplies.

After the building of the first United States fleet and the significant Battle of Valcour in 1776, he learned that congress had promoted five officers, all Arnold's juniors in service and inferior in ability, to the rank of major general. At General Washington's urging, he swallowed the insult and desisted in resigning from the service; a short time after, in recognition of Arnold's action at Danbury, Conn., Congress did make him a major general, but he still ranked below the five brigadier generals.

The quarrel with Congress over unsettled accounts continued and Arnold resigned from the service, "not because he loved his country less but because he cherished his honour as much as ever." But fate intervened as General Washington asked Congress to place Arnold in command of the northern militia under General Schuyler. Arnold asked Congress to suspend his resignation but Congress refused. The records give no account of their motives for the refusal. A newcomer to Congress reported that "the reasoning upon the occasion was disgusting."

Then followed Benedict Arnold's bold and victorious work at Herkimer and at Saratoga. General Gates, who did not leave his tent during the action at Saratoga, made no mention of Arnold in his report to Congress. Congress did resolve that General Washington should regulate Arnold's seniority and he received a new commission. In this battle Arnold received the wound in his leg that crippled him for life.

Benedict Arnold's new assignment in 1778 was the command in Philadelphia. But that city was a hot bed of patriots, loyalist, neutrals, and greedy merchants. The logical steps Arnold took to settle affairs naturally were suspect and his marriage with loyalist Margaret (Peggy) Shippen, his purchase of a large mansion, and his prosperity in business affairs did not help matters. Other officers were pursuing the same course but Arnold's were on a grand scale and evidence points to the fact that he did use military power to gain personal advantage.

Much speculation has been made over Peggy Shippen's part in Arnold's treason. Although she was clearly aware of the process, it is more likely that Arnold lived up to his avowal at Saratoga "his judgment had never been influenced by any man," and she conformed to his decisions. This avowal also applied to the charges that he succumbed to British overtures. Charged again with illegal conduct, Arnold demanded a court trial. He begged Washington to hasten it and resigned his commission in Philadelphia.

Carol Van Doren sums up the grievances that Arnold had simmering in his breast: His desire for money as his income was reduced after his loss of command in Philadelphia, his increased expenses of marriage and loss of profits in trading adventures, Congress' reluctance to settle his public accounts and the postponements of the trial, his enemies insults, his crippled leg, and his impatience at being blocked by what he wanted to do.

By May 1779 the seeds of treason were planted and he approached the British under guise of abhorring the separation of Great Britain and America. As in other ventures, he planned this one cleverly. He obtained the command of West Point, plotted with Major John Andre and others, and betrayed American headquarters and West point secrets to the British.

To paraphrase a literary quotation Arnold, having been taught how to act a traitor was then taught how a traitor should be treated. Despised in England, Canada, and the United States he had a most unpleasant life thereafter.

If all had gone well Benedict Arnold might have been the revered "lord of the manor" of Skenesborough for in November, 1778, 19 years after its founding he considered buying the confiscated estate of Philip Skene at the head of Lake Champlain. His actions placed a shadow on Skenesborough's history and we can only say with the old soldier, "But he ought to have been true."

The Whitehall Times
December 25, 1975

The Knox Trail Trek
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

It doesn't get into the story but Benedict Arnold was instructed by the Massachusetts Committee of Safety to see to the capture of the forts on Lake Champlain, to capture the English vessel at St. John's, and collect cannons for sending to Boston. This he did while at Fort Ticonderoga and the cannons were even stripped from the Royal Savage to be included among the guns that went to Massachusetts.

The Whitehall Times
September 11, 1980

Fate of Arnolds Navy
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Adirondack Life of September/October, 1980, contains an article by Russell Bellico: "**The Search for Arnold's Navy.**"

Research on this topic by many historians has been diligent over the years. Primary sources from various points of view of the writers have to be compared and evaluated — an arduous task.

In the article in *The Whitehall Times*, 1 July 1776, "Ships of the First United States Navy," I relied on the work of two such men who had spent well over ten years each and separately in their search. One did not have time to put his work in manuscript form; the other has the material in a manuscript for a fictional /biography of Benedict Arnold.

Repetition of history related to Whitehall can do no harm, I think, and may reach new readers so they may know our town's historical heritage. Mr. Bellico's account adds new, details to the story of the first fleet, especially in the account of his search in the waters of Lake Champlain.

This is a summary of the fate of our first navy from the Battle of Valcour, 11 October 1776:

ROYAL SAVAGE, schooner, was beached by the Americans, taken by the British and burned at Valcour. It was salvaged in 1934 by Capt. Hagglund and according to Mr. Bellico what is left of it is now on Long Island.

PHILADELPHIA, gondola was so holed in the battle that after it she sank straight down with mast still standing. She was salvaged in 1935 by Capt. Hagglund and now is in the Smithsonian Institution carefully preserved.

BOSTON, Gundelo, capsized in a storm near Schuyler Island 12 October.

JERSEY, gundelo, was so damaged there was no time to repair it, and she was sunk but was raised by the British and used for many years.

LEE, cutter, was run to shore by her crew in Split Rock Bay from where the British took her.

WASHINGTON, row galley, was overtaken by the British and captured.

CONGRESS, row galley, was put into Buttonmold or Arnold's Bay 13 October to escape capture and burned by Arnold and his men. At the same time gundelos CONNECTICUT, PROVIDENCE, SPITFIRE and NEW HAVEN were fired also. The British did some salvaging at the time but most of these ships were left to be destroyed by souvenir hunters in later years.

CONGRESS hull is stored near Ausable Chasm.

NEW YORK (SUCCESS), gundelo, loaded with ammunition blew up and burned before the Americans fled from Ticonderoga 5 July 1777.

LIBERTY, schooner, TRUMBULL, row galley were captured by the British in Skenesborough harbor 6 July 1777 when REVENGE, schooner, GATES, row galley, and ENTERPRIZE, SLOOP were set afire there and sank near Wood Creek Falls. Pieces of these were removed when Champlain Canal was moved over into Wood Creek 1907 to 1912.

The ships captured by the British, LEE, JERSEY, WASHINGTON, TRUMBULL and LIBERTY were used by them for many years but were allowed to deteriorate by 1784. LIBERTY was in that condition at dockside in 1789.

In the Navy Room of Skenesborough Museum is a plank believed to come from ROYAL SAVAGE as it was picked up at Valcour. Some objects made from the wood of the ships at Wood Creek Falls are on display. There are models there also of the types of ships sailed in our first United States Navy.

The Whitehall Times

April 29, 1982

Jean Fritz: Traitor, The Case of Benedict Arnold

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The biography "Treason: The Case of Benedict Arnold" is palatable. Unlike other biographies it does not make Arnold an archfield from his cradle. He is analyzed and his actions shown as a result of his environment.

Like Napoleon and other short men, Arnold had to compensate for his stature; he had to live with what was a disgrace and an embarrassment, thrust upon an innocent family when he had to lead his father from the saloon; he had to prove himself to his school companions for a feeling he described as "being a coward."

Arnold compensated by performing audacious feats like riding around with a mill wheel, shooting off a canon, fighting bigger boys. He left his mark in all the places he ventured — his carved initials B.A. He was a "show off," and after his youth he had to have the best of everything — clothing, homes, position-in-life, whether he could pay for them or not.

Above all things Arnold felt he had to protect his honor. This led to many confrontations, duels and demands for trials to vindicate his actions. He made enemies

like his cousin John Brown who spent a great part of his life attempting to discredit Arnold, Aaron Burr and Colonel Easton. But he was a leader of men who followed him almost blindly into arenas of danger and death.

Jean Fritz takes the reader through the many campaigns in which Arnold fought for his country; at Ticonderoga, through Maine to Canada, at Danbury, in the Mohawk Valley with St. Leger, at Saratoga with Gates. She enumerated the acts of Congress which he considered as insults in return for his patriotic acts; relieving him of his command at Ticonderoga, promoting five generals over him, refusing him remuneration for money he had advanced, and, perhaps the unkindest cut of all, making General Washington, his friend, publicly reprimand him.

Crippled for life, without money to purchase a luxurious home and gorgeous clothing for a young wife, he turned to a scheme by which he thought he could bring the war to a close, changing sides and bringing the enemies together. ... , this last phase of Arnold's part in the Revolution has not been generally stressed. Mrs. Fritz knows whereof she writes, for she is a thorough researcher of material for the many biographies she has written of American heroes for young people. Her books are not just for young people; adults can be fascinated by the portrait she "paints" in this biography of Benedict Arnold.

The Whitehall Times

July 11, 1985

The Story of the Liberty

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The capture of Skenesborough May 9, 1775, is to be re-enacted July 13, 1985 as a part of Whitehall Festival '85 observance. One of the main purposes of this capture was the securing of Philip Skene's 40 ton red cedar schooner to ferry the Green Mountain Boys across Lake Champlain in the capture of Fort Ticonderoga. This is the story of that ship which became the first ship of the United States Navy.

From 1759 when Skene began settlement at the head of Lake Champlain, he had established during the 1760's a firm estate of farms, mills, and trade. Since much transportation occurred on Lake Champlain a larger conveyance was needed besides his scows and bateaus. By 1771 he possessed a schooner and two passage boats. The schooner he called Katharine in honor of his wife, Katharine Heyden.

On May 9, 1775 Captain Samuel Herrick, with thirty men, split from the main body of the Green Mountain Boys to go to Skenesborough. There they took the schooner KATHARINE but instead of sending it on to Hands Cove to carry the force to Fort Ticonderoga, they tarried in Skenesborough to raid the wine cellar and loot Skenesborough House and the schooner.

By May 11 the Katharine was in charge of Benedict Arnold's recruiters who had arrived at Skenesborough. They were Captains Oswald and John Brown. They renamed KATHARINE; THE LIBERTY. They took on board 50 men and the captured Skene family son Andrew, daughters Mary and Katherine (Kathi), sister Elizah and John

Brooks, Deputy of His Majesty's Forests. They sailed down Lake Champlain to Ticonderoga where on May 13 they left the Skene family at the fort. Benedict Arnold had the schooner armed with four carriages and eight swivel guns, including the ones found on LIBERTY. The LIBERTY reached Crown Point on May 14. On the same day Arnold with fifty of his men set out with Captain Oswald in charge of the sailors and Captain Sloan in charge of the soldiers, with himself in charge of the LIBERTY. They were headed to St. John's in Canada to take a British ship that was located there.

By the evening of May 17 the force was off St. John's. At 6 a.m. May 18 Arnold with two boat loads of men took the place by surprise and captured a 70 ton sloop with its guns and carriages, six bateaus, and other supplies. This ship was later called the ENTERPRISE. Within two hours they were on their way south with Arnold on the captured sloop. On the way back he made out the payroll for the soldiers sailors, and marines from the LIBERTY from May 3 to July 12, 1775, the date on which they had been engaged.

Back at Ticonderoga Arnold armed the ENTERPRISE with six carriages and 14 swivels. During the summer and fall of 1775 these two ships were used as patrol of Lake Champlain to prevent Britain's penetration of the area. They were joined by a third, schooner REVENGE, built at Ticonderoga.

In 1776 preparations for war were stepped up on both sides. With these ships as a nucleus Arnold added others to his fleet as they were finished and still patrolled the lake. LIBERTY was used for carrying supplies and for this reason was away from the fleet during the Battle of Valcour in October. As the remnants of the fleet fled from Valcour to Ticonderoga she joined them and was there in 1777 when the American ships went to Skenesborough with the ammunition, supplies, and inmates of the hospital were hastily sent up on the approach of General Burgoyne.

Five ships - ENTERPRISE, LIBERTY, REVENGE, TRUMBULL and GATES - were in Skenesborough Harbor when the British navy ships arrived. In the short conflict that followed three of the ships were blown up and burned. The remaining two - LIBERTY and TRUMBULL - were captured by the British and remained in their service. When Lock 12 was constructed, 1907-1912, the remains of these ships were found. Two cannons were placed on the Armory lawn in later years and many checker board cue sticks, and so on were said to be from the LIBERTY, but later it was known to be the GATES.

LIBERTY was taken to Canada and employed in the Navy as long as she was serviceable. She then was moored at a dock in St. Johns and by 1784 had suffered the fate of the later War of 1812 ships in East Bay.

From this story of the LIBERTY it is clear that the LIBERTY did not sink in Skenesborough Harbor to be found in the twentieth century.

The Whitehall Independent
January 22, 1986

Benedict Arnold
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Write ups on historical events were recounted. The special one in this issue was that of the Knox Trail expedition that went from Ticonderoga to Boston with the cannons during the Revolution. The account tells the story of the two cannons that were lost at Half Moon Ford. This is tied in with our history as the cannons that were purposed for Benedict Arnold's desire to capture Fort Ticonderoga.

The Whitehall Times
February 6, 1975

Arnold, Roles of Skenesborough
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Capt. D. M. Bradford Williams has completed Volume One of "Commodore Benedict Arnold, Founding Father of Our United States Navy and Marine Corps." Captain Williams describes the book as "A Seaman's Biography of Benedict Arnold, the Untold Naval Saga of the American Revolution."

Captain Williams had hoped that his book would be published before the Bicentennial events of May 9 and 10, but delays at the publishing house prevented this. He stated that many books on our Revolution had recently been published to take advantage of the Bicentennial; that virtually all are merely paraphrased versions of their predecessors with no new material.

Captain Williams states that his book contains all new material, which had never previously reached the American public. His book is the result of 20 years of deep research; he was aided in this by the late Admiral Henry Kent Hewitt, U.S.N., of Orwell, Vt.

Commenting on the book, Captain Williams said:

"No other navy throughout recorded history got under way from speed zero by capturing its first two warships.

"This is the true and incredible story of the real birth of our Navy and Marine Corps, never, repeat never, previously related in toto. The truth emerges following two centuries of skillfully managed history.

"Our original Navy and Marine Corps were born at Skenesborough (present Whitehall), New York, definitely not at Philadelphia or anywhere else. And quite definitely not created by George Washington, our Continental Congress, or anyone other than Commodore Benedict Arnold, British-American merchant marine.

"Capture of sloop-of-war Liberty, by Commodore Arnold's own seamen and original eight ratline marines, was the very first aggressive/ offense action taken by our

American rebel patriots. The painless capture of Fort Ticonderoga, by Commodore/Colonel Benedict Arnold and outlawed land grabber Ethan Allen, occurred the following day.

"Commodore Arnold's original two-ship naval squadron, manned by salty seagoing seamen and ratline marines from his personally owned merchant ships, maintained command of our inland sea — strategic Lake Champlain — throughout the summer and fall of 1775, when we captured Montreal, thereby precluding the recapture of Fort Ticonderoga by the British in Canada.

"Of far greater import, Commodore Ben Arnold's diminutive albeit potent navy precluded the British-planned double involvement of George Washington's inchoate ergo untrained Continental Army at Cambridge, Mass. that plan, formulated by Generals Gage and Howe in Boston and General Carleton at Montreal, was scuppered by Commodore Arnold's captured original U.S. Navy squadron.

"Had Commodore Ben Arnold not secured and maintained command of the sea, that vital inland sea called Lake Champlain, our misnamed 'Revolutionary' War would have terminated disastrously during the summer of 1775.

"Obviously, there would have been no Declaration of Independence in 1776, ergo no United States of America.

"The sad fact that our frivolous, stern sitting, landlubber Continental Congress placed Commander Ben Arnold's original U.S. Navy and Marine Corps under our landlubber Continental Army, rather than acknowledge the existence of Commodore Arnold's original American rebel Navy, constitutes one of history's most flagrant miscarriages of justice.

"Though fully documented, this most vital facet of our history has been suppressed since 1780, when Benedict Arnold turned traitor. It is told here in salty manner by a seaman who holds 16 seagoing battle stars and the Purple Heart from World War II, including service on the world famous USS Enterprise and heroic albeit ill fated USS Franklin.

Societies, Organizations & Clubs

The Whitehall Times

June 16, 1988

Gleanings from the Whitehall Chronicle of 1870's

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In this period of Whitehall's history the topic of temperance was in much evidence. Societies, churches, and the Temperance Society took part. In April 1874 St. Patrick Total Abstinence Benevolent Society of Our Lady of Angels marched from its room to Mass given by Father McDonnell. It reformed under the leadership of A. C. Hopson, marched down Canal Street to the lower bridge, across the bridge to Williams Street to Wheeler Avenue. The line counter-marched back Williams Street to the middle

bridge to Canal Street in front of the Hall House and back to its room. The St. Mary's Eighteen Band accompanied the parade. The streets were lively on St. Patrick's morning. Full regalia was worn in spite of the inclement weather. Featured was a group of boys wearing the regalia that had been taught the principle of temperance. Editorial note "May they follow these through life." A sumptuous supper was served in the evening. St. Joseph was to Notre Dame as St. Patrick was to OLA. They met at their room in the Renois Block and went to the church where Father Payette held Mass. There was no parade.

The Whitehall Times
June 20, 1987

Whitehall Chronicle in 1870's
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Masonic Hall: When the present American Legion building was erected in 1860 the third floor was outfitted for the Masonic Hall. The signs of the order were placed in the ceiling and a platform erected on the east. In 1874 a new hall was placed in the red brick Davis downtown. The main room was 55 feet by 25 feet. The floor was covered with Brussels carpet and the furnishings were of the finest of lumber. A suite of three rooms were connected with each other.

The Whitehall Times
August 13, 1987

March 18, 1871
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Sparkling Spring Lodge No. 230 I.O. of G.T. had its lodge rooms over Billett's store just south of Clinton Avenue on the east side of the street.

20 March St; Joseph Society made its annual observance of St. Patrick's Day by marching from their hall to Notre Dame des Victoires, at the corner then of Saunders and Church streets where High Mass was celebrated by Reverend Father Levalle of Montreal.

The Whitehall Times
August 20, 1987

Washington County News - March 1871
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In the Society Meetings listings were three for the Masonic order: Phoenix Lodge No. 96, Champlain Chapter No. 25, and the Hiram Lodge No. 1. Another society was organized in Whitehall in April by the Grand Lecturer of the Grand Council of the State. It was called Council of Royal Select and Super Excellent.

The Whitehall Times
August 31, 1972

Washington County News – June 1872
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The convention of the Independent Order of Good Templars, was held In Whitehall with Whitehall's Sparkling Spring Lodge No. 230 as its host on June 11 and 12. This was a temperance organization. Each lodge had five voting delegates. Whitehall's were James Adams Jr., S. Merwin Smith, T. A. Peterson, S. Carver Jr., and Sister T. A. Paterson. So Whitehall's delegation had 25 per cent of its delegates female.

The Whitehall Times
March 20, 1973

March 1873
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Under the leadership of Father Payette of Notre Dame des Victoires at a Retreat held on Sunday over 40 men joined in forming a temperance society.

St. Patrick's Day was celebrated when St. Patrick's Total Abstinence and Benevolent Society and St. Joseph's Society marched to Our Lady of Angels headed by Holcomb's Drum Corps and St. Mary's Cornet band. A Shamrock ball was held that evening in Anderson Hall where an outside band was assisted by St. Mary's Band and St. Mary's Choir.

The Whitehall Times
June 9, 1988

Whitehall Chronicle - 1874
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

After the Civil War, many veterans' posts were organized and took the name of a veteran. One of Whitehall's posts was the Post John Corbett. In July 1874 in Good Templais Hall (where?) the post held a campfire reception. Reminiscences were given by veterans: H. D and W. C. Hall, Captain W. C. Clark, W. H. Tefft, Hiram Tefft Jr., and Warren C. Goodnick. They dwell on camp life and punishments. Refreshments were served with cake being labeled hard tack, ice cream, and salt pork.

The Whitehall Times
May 9, 1974

Good Templars – May 1874
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Anniversary: Capture of Skenesborough by Green Mountain Boys, 9 May 1775.

In the "merry month of May" 1874, a mini Watergate with innuendoes, recriminations, investigation of records, and denials occurred.

An active temperance society, the Sparkling Spring Lodge of Good Templars, existed in the village for many years. For a long time it had advocated total abstinence of spiritous liquors. A committee appointed to see that liquor dealers did not violate their licenses had accomplished little. Another committee was now appointed to circulate petitions against granting any licenses whatever by the Board of Excise. Although the men of the society frowned on organizing a woman's auxiliary they weren't averse to using the ladies' wiles in persuading reluctant signers. Soon over 2100 signatures were obtained. Whitehall's population at that time was about 4300.

A committee of both sexes presented the petition to the Board of Excise on 6 May. The board was composed of A. H. Tanner, W. F. Bascom, and R. Chapin. The members of the committee were well known business men with one clergyman: Mrs. Joseph Potter, Mrs. Henry Griswold, Mrs. John Cull, Mr. and Mrs. James Adams, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Broughton, Mrs. S. T. Cook, Miss Hattie Parke, J. H. Parke, N. H. Parke, J. F. Clark, T. S. McLachlin, D. B. Nye, S. C. Bull, J. H. Rodd, and Rev. T. W. Harwood.

When the petition was presented, part of the law was quoted: "The Board of Excise may grant licenses to persons of good moral character when in their decisions it shall be deemed necessary for the public good."

The board replied that "Whatever was done would be for the best interests of the entire people." Greatly to the surprise of almost everyone the board voted to grant no

licenses that year. The Pros were jubilant; the Cons were aghast. Some licenses had run out the day before; others would expire 9 June. The proprietors of the hotels said they couldn't carry on their businesses without a license. But all the ones affected obediently closed their bars.

Then started a small Watergate like procedure, people gathered on street corners to give freely of their conjectures which some immediately repeated as facts. Some had access to the records of the Express Company and interpreted all kegs of materials going to homes as being kegs of ale. Men were accused and leaped to their own defense in print. H. D. W. C. Hill, a temperance man, was accused of having three kegs of ale in his cellar. He replied "The charge is not only untrue but also literally false." He said his wife was under doctor's orders to take medicinal ale and the keg was the smallest he could buy for his wife's prescription and that one keg contained two and one half dozen eggs. He had never patronized any bar, never drank either from a bottle or a glass behind the door or in public.

1. S. McLacklin was accused of having a half barrel in his cellar. He replied "I haven't any ale in my cellar; neither have I bought any ale; neither do I drink any ale." The alleged ale keg was ten gallons of Slate Roofing paint, "a sure preservative against leaks in an old tin or shingle roof." James Adams, Jr., said he had not used any wine for the past 16 years.

The Board of Excise was accused of allowing pressure to be brought to bear on them. Many wished they hadn't signed the petition (a usual procedure for signers of petitions). One advocate said hotels and drug stores should have licenses because "It is better to grant licenses to men of respectability to allow them to sell liquors than it is to allow 'dives' to be run by men and women of low or no moral character at all." The town received \$1800 for licenses last year was the monetary plea.

When the Board of Excise met 9 June the ladies made a plea for the moral rights of the community. The lawyer for the dealers declared the board could only go by the law, not by what is morally right. The board met in secret session and gave licenses to hotels for \$150; to stores for \$100; and beer licenses for \$75. The revenue was \$1775.

The conclusion reached by a spokesman was "This no doubt will meet with the approval of a great majority of our citizens. Our temperance friends now have an opportunity of testing their sincerity in their cause. The license law is very strict and if parties outstrip its bounds an opportunity is offered for prosecution and taking away of licenses."

Another "tempest in a teapot" was thus played out in Whitehall in May, 1874.

The Whitehall Independent
January 20, 1988

Knights of Columbus
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The refurbishing of this building today is good news. Its construction goes back to the 1913-1914 time. The new Y.M.C.A. Emergency Hospital was formerly opened 16 January, 1914, although it had been in use for some weeks.

In the afternoon there was an informal reception at the building between 3 and 5, during which time a committee of ladies served lunch, especially the Civic League members, and a pleasing program was given; instrumental selections by the two Burnette boys, a solo by Miss Hyatt, and several readings or recitations by Miss Maud Manville, who was a teacher of elocution.

There were about 360 guests, who were met at the door by the Directors, and each party was shown over the building by Boy Scouts who volunteered for that purpose. There were four patients in the hospital, three, who were able to sit up and seemed to enjoy seeing the people.

In the evening the dedicatory services were held in the Presbyterian Church at 8 PM. R.G. Hays, president of the Board of Directors, presided. It rather followed the order of church services, with scripture, hymns, and prayers. Greetings were given from the Railroad Committee of the State Committee by the local General Secretary, H.N. Smith; from the State Committee by Roeliff B. Smith, State Railroad Secretary. The dedicatory address was by the Reverend George C. Douglass of Saratoga Springs.

The Whitehall Times
October 26, 1972

Societies - 1908
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In October, 1908, the list of social and fraternal meetings is Impressive also. How many do you recognize? National Protective Legion, Whitehall Legion No. 664, N.P.L.; Modern Woodmen of America, Whitehall Camp, No. 10.479; Knights of Pythias, Tancred Lodge, No. 303, K. of P.; Whitehall Encampment No. 69; Canton Whitehall, No. 54, P.M. L.O.O.F.; United Spanish War Veterans Herbert L. Tracy Camp, No. 55, U.S.W.V.; Odd Fellows, Whitehall Lodge, No. 5, I.O.O.F.; Independent Order Foresters, Court Whitehall, 4,434, L.O.F.; Royal Neighbors of America Auxiliary; Laborers Protective Union No. 12256, A.F. of L.; Knights of Columbus Council; Phoenix Lodge, No. 96, F.& A.M.; Whitehall Grange No. 922; Knights of the Maccabees, The Whitehall Tent No. 228, K.O. ; T.M.

Note the small organization's number of some of the orders. None can compare, however, with I.O.O.F.'s No. 5.

"Approaching dates in gay Whitehall" was an interesting lead. Here are some: "Washington County Fair" at the Y.M.C.A. Hall; Maccabees Fair, dancing Friday night, all night, at 50 cents a couple.

Whitehall Grange Ball at Griswold Hall; the Grange dances are always conducted with the utmost propriety, 75 cents per couple, extra lady 15 cents.

Pond's social hops, given every Tuesday and Friday nights at Griswold Hall with an eight piece orchestra.

Supper at Mrs. Frank Walker's under the auspices of W.C.T.U.; supper 15 cents.

There were many more, both organized and group. Of course there was no home diversion of radio and TV then, and people looked for entertainment outside the home.

The Whitehall Independent February 13, 1985

More of a Newspaper - 1909 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Whitehall at present has many fraternal organizations. Times change and societies change. How many of these that were popular in 1909 in the column Gavel and Sign, are remembered?

National Protective League, Whitehall Legion No. 669, L.D. Brown, Pres.; Knights of Pythias, Tancred Lodge No. 308, K. of P. Whitehall, Encampment No. 89, David Forbush C.P.; Canton Whitehall No. 54 P.M.I.O.O.F., P.L. King, Captain; United Spanish War Veterans Herbert L. Tracey Camp No. 35 U.S.W.V. at Roth Hall, Broad Street, John J. Kelly, Commander; Odd Fellows Lodge No. 5 I.O.O.F., Noble Grand Charles Souter, Independent Foresters Court Whitehall 4434 I.O.F., I. O.F. Hall Broad Street, Alex Allore, Chief Ranger; Royal Neighbors of America, Auxiliary to M.W. of A.; A.F. of L. Laborers Protective Union No. 12256 Rush Hall, L.W. Finch, President; K. of C. Council, K. of C. Hall; Masonic Phoenix Lodge No. 98 F.&A.M. Masonic Temple; Whitehall Grange No. 922, J. Cooke, Master.

At this time Whitehall had a larger population. That would account for the number of professional men that advertised. Under Professional Cards were listed two doctors: Dr. Arthur Falkenbury, physician and surgeon with an office at the corner of Saunders and West streets and Dr. C.W. Schwartz, physician and surgeon with residence and office on Canal Street.

Lawyer's were more numerous: J. Sanford Potter, counselor at law in Granville; Otis A. Dennis, attorney at law and practice in Courts of Admiralty, in office over J.H. Sullivan's store (Pippo's); O.F. and R.R. Davis, attorneys at law in the Davis Building on Broad Street; William Sears, attorney at law on Broad Street; A.D. Bartholomew, attorney at law, at 10 North Williams Street opposite present Elks; T.A. Lillie, attorney at law and counselor, in the Griswold Building where also was Frederic R. Spencer, attorney and counselor.

Here is an unusual one: Johnson Detective Agency, with Frank L. Johnson manager in Granville who promised legitimate detective work in any part of the world.

The Whitehall Times
January 7, 1988

The Female Benevolent Society of Whitehall
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The poor of Whitehall were a concern of the town from the time of its organization. There was a poor commission from the beginning and indigent people were cared for by persons who were paid to keep them in food, shelter, and clothing. During the time of the ship fever years the problem was acute because of the great number of immigrants who came through the port of Whitehall with no means of support.

The record book from which this report is taken began with the annual meeting of 1850 but it evidently had been in existence for 25 years. The constitution was copied at the beginning of the book. Whether it was the original one or a new one is not stated but its objects and organization were clearly stated. The name for it to be called was the Female Benevolent Society of Whitehall. The object of the Society was to assist the poor children of this vicinity in clothing and instruction for the relief of the sick, distressed, poor, and for other charitable purposes which shall be deemed expedient for the society.

The business of the society was to be conducted by five managers chosen annually whose duty it was to promote the object of the society by obtaining subscriptions and donations, seeing the same conveyed to the place of deposit, to seek out objects of charity and report the same to the Society.

A treasurer was to receive all subscriptions and donations and pay over to her successor on whenever a draft was made by the secretary by order of the managers.

The managers were to meet at least once in three months at such time and place they appointed. Three of their numbers consisted of a quorum. Each subscriber was to pay annually into the treasury whatever clothing and money their liberality suggested. All monies collected were to be appropriated to charitable and religious purposes at the discretion of the society.

The managers were empowered to call special meetings, make by-laws, and fill vacancies occurring during the year. The names of the members of the society in 1854 were listed at 60. There were names of females, married and single and were those connected with the well known families of that time, business and professional.

The meeting of 12 December 1850 was held in the Presbyterian Church. Although the members of the society were females the formal meeting was in the hands of males. Honorable P. H. Boyd was chairman, P. T. Blount, was secretary, Reverend Mr. Agneau gave the prayer, Dr. A. A. Harrington gave the annual report, and Reverend L. Kellogg delivered the address. The managers gave a detailed report for the year which will follow.

The Whitehall Times
January 14, 1988

The Female Benevolent Society of Whitehall
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The managers of the Society in 1850 were Mrs. E. Holdridge, Mrs. J. Tierney, Mrs. O.F. Blount, Mrs. M.O. Blinn, and Mrs. L Ferris. At the annual meeting in December 1850 they presented a detailed report which included the names of all clothing, food items, and household supplies with the exact amount of each. They reported that the society had been in existence 28 years and that a present member had served for 11.

Children especially were sought and provided with clothing for school, sometimes with outfits, and books. Follow ups with the teachers showed that these became some of the brightest in the classes. These reports contained profuse thanks to the donors of cash and goods and descriptions of the destitute people. They were religious in tone seeming almost sermonic like.

Mr. Halden copied the records of the Female Benevolent Society for sixteen years of its life of service. One wonders where these records are and when and why the society disbanded.

The Whitehall Times
May 12, 1988

Whitehall Chronicle – 1850 - The Female Benevolent Society
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Ladies of the Benevolent Society held its first Festival of the year 1856 on 17 January in Chippawa Hall (Music Hall). They made \$175 on a display of confectionery made by themselves, a tobacco display of Dahn and Toben, and home manufactures fancy work.

The Whitehall Times
November 2, 1973

The Female Benevolent Society – November 1873
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Y.M.C.A. appealed to the public to give help in caring for, the poor of the village, especially to the ladies as the Ladies Benevolent society, active for so long, had been abandoned and its work turned over to the Y.M.C.A.

Twentysixth. At the meeting of 21 November the ladies did attend and were elected Associate Members (Nice of the men since the women were to do the work). They reactivated the Ladies Benevolent society and began to devise means of obtaining supplies for the needy, as there would doubtless be a great many during the winter of the panic.

Thanksgiving Day. Rev. John Lowery preached in the Baptist Church in the morning. All congregations attended. Following the service the Benevolent Society laid more plans.

Nineteenth. Hiram Green, Esq., the columnist of the time wrote: "The panic has come down onto Skenesboro and brought her trunk to make a long visit. Everything in the way of money is as tight as a new pair of wedding boots."

The Whitehall Times
July 28, 1988

Whitehall Chronicle in 1874
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

One of the organizations in the village was called the Hawthorne Club. This was organized by the wife of the Reverend Hall in October 1874. It was composed of the wives of the prominent business and professional men. They obtained the name from a celebrated author of that time. Their purpose was literary interest. Every two weeks on Wednesdays they met at a member's home ready to discuss an author's work with a biographical sketch, all prepared in advance. After the discussion and criticism they had a luncheon, as this was a morning session.

The Whitehall Times
January 1, 1976

January 1876
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Business interests here would be greatly benefited by establishing a board of trade. We are at present (January, 1876) viewing the departure of several of the most important business interests. A meeting of businessmen was called for 2 February in the village hall to take the matter into consideration. Let there be a large attendance, as we, as citizens interested in the welfare, of our place, must unite to review trade.

The Whitehall Times
February 5, 1976

February 1876
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Board of Trade of the Village of Whitehall was organized 2 February 1876. Pursuant to a call that had gone out to interested people, the meeting was composed of business men interested in the lumber, forwarding, and manufacturing interests of the place. The chairman chosen was William H. Cooke and Secretary, W. A. Wilkins, both men with an interest in lumber.

Speakers presented the objects of the proposed association: To induce capitalists wishing to engage in the manufacturing business to establish themselves at Whitehall to take advantage of the capital in the, Whitehall banks; to take the transportation rate in hand; to overcome the discrimination of the New England markets against Whitehall; to be represented by a committee to consult with the D&H that as yet had no proper line connection; to encourage building up lumber and forwarding interests in Whitehall. (Whitehall had been informed it was simply a little interior town) to induce the D&H to locate their large machine shops here.

Advantages of Whitehall were brought, out. The canal could be enlarged and supplied with water of the Granville (Mettowee) and Wood creeks. Whitehall possessed the power of Wood Creek capable of furnishing 150-250 horsepower allowed to run to waste. Railroad lines to Granville could be built.

A committee was appointed to meet the next evening and the Board of Trade was on its way.

On 14 February the constitution was read to the meeting. The name of the organization was to be the Board of Trade of the Village of Whitehall. Its purpose was to develop the commercial, manufacturing, and general business interests of the village. Its officers should be a president, a vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer.

No debt should be incurred by the Board of Trade or by any individual member on its account. The constitution was then presented to the Village Trustees.

The Whitehall Times
May 27, 1976

May 1876
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Board of Trade was investigating the possibility of a firm from St. John erecting a pottery in Whitehall, the sand from East Bay and the Whitehall clay to be used in the process along with Dresden feldspar. A second investigation was the possibility of locating the D&H Canal company shops here.

The Whitehall Times
March 30, 1978

The Whitehall Temperance Club - 1876
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

During the year 1876 a great revival movement swept Whitehall. All the churches held meetings and reported the many people who reformed as a result of the movement. This was true in neighboring communities. Speakers were imported to add to the work of the local clergy.

The first mention of a temperance club was in a March, 1876, newspaper when the Ungraded School Boys placed a note of thanks for a supper given them and the articles supplied for their school room in the Vaughn building. They added that they had organized a temperance club and signed the pledge. They expressed the hope that every man and boy would sign the pledge they had ready to circulate.

What causes a temperance society to be organized? Was it a result of the revivals or a social condition in the village or the desire of the village members to help their fellow men? Usually women are credited with such societies and fun is still directed to their efforts. But this organization was started by the influential men of Whitehall.

On 30 April 1877, 22 persons gathered in the village hall and perfected an organization called the Whitehall Temperance Club. A previous meeting had directed that a constitution be drawn up. E. Butler, who presided at both these meetings submitted this constitution and all persons present signed it and signed the pledge. The group decided there should be a president, six vice presidents, a secretary, a treasurer, and six members of an executive committee. Since the election of officers was to occur at the second Tuesday in May, nominations were made at this meeting. Two nominations for president, 18 for vice president, 3 for treasurer, and 12 for executive committee members were made. Some of the names were submitted for all the offices. Much interest was evidenced in the work of the organization. Meetings were to be held in the place of J. H. H. Parke at the corner of Broad and Clinton Avenue.

Mr. Wilkins of The Whitehall Times commented on the society in a news item and on his editorial page. He believed this temperance society in its "worthy and Christian work of reclaiming men who are victims of their worst passions" should have the cooperation of all of the citizens of Whitehall. Then he referred to work previously done by the Rev. J. J. McDonnell who had worked with such people during his stay in Whitehall and had reclaimed many victims into good and honorable citizens. On 8 May the first regular meeting was held at the office of Anson Parks. Professor Butler again presided and L. H. Filmore was secretary pro tempore. Four members were appointed to represent the club at the excise board. Paul Wells wanted the names of the people taking the pledge to be published in the newspaper. Others objected. Justin Smith addressed the body "eloquently and effectively" and he and Paul Wells were chosen to be speakers for the next meeting.

Election of officers took place. Members paid their dues of 25 cents a year. As \$10 in dues was reported the organization evidently began with 40 members. The

constitution provided that females could be member; for dues of 10 cents; for \$5 one could be an honorary member and for \$10 one could be a life member.

The pledge read: I, the undersigned, do hereby pledge my word and honor, God helping me, that I will not buy, sell or use as a beverage any intoxication drink, and that I will by all honorable means, encourage others to abstain from their traffic and use.

The constitution was read. The purposes of Article 11 were stated to render assistance to persons who are endeavoring to abandon the use of alcoholic drinks and to prevent others from acquiring the habit of intemperance. The executive committee was to take charge of the business affairs of the organization.

Thanks were given to Anson Parks for the use of his hall and this first regular meeting adjourned. The members of this organization were the influential members of Whitehall in its school, political and business affairs.

The Whitehall Times

April 6, 1978

The Whitehall Temperance Club - 1877

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The founders of Whitehall's Temperance Society in 1877 were outstanding in the community. Taking the first slate of officers elected with their positions in the village will show they were not of one particular section of citizens. President O. F. Davis was a lawyer with an office on Broad Street. He had interests in the lumber industry.

There were six vice presidents. Robert C. Cook was in the lumber industry with his father. C.W. Adams was an outstanding photographer. Robert Doig was another lawyer of long standing in the community. Lucius Rodd was a carpenter. Ami D. Gibbs kept a grocery store on Canal Street. W. H. Murray dealt in groceries and provisions on Broad Street.

The secretary was William W. Cook who had a planing and wholesale lumber company entitled W. W. Cook and Sons. He was at one time president of the Whitehall Academy on Williams Street. The treasurer was Horatio Parker, Whitehall's postmaster at that time.

There were six members of the executive committee. L. M. Miller had a harness shop on Clinton Avenue. E. Butler was the Whitehall school superintendent. J. F. Clark had a store at Broad and High streets from which he sold tea, flour, wool and groceries. James Adams, Jr., may have been in the business of boat building. T. S. McLachlin was in the Dayton Block selling carpets, hardware and house furnishing goods. G. H. Murray so far hasn't turned up in the records.

Among other charter members were doctors, manufacturers, farmers and land developers. At the first meetings pledges were circulated and with those signed during the week were recorded in the register. One member tried unsuccessfully to have all the names placed in the weekly papers.

The programs were "remarks" made by the members themselves, including those of the local clergy. Soon outside speakers came in, for the temperance movement was countywide.

At one meeting the members were "appreciative" of an address from the famous Charles E. Hughes from New York. With great indignation at the next meeting this person was denounced as an imposter. There was no television that could have prevented this deception.

As a sign of membership, the members resolved to wear a badge. This took the form of a piece of red ribbon six inches long and one and a half inches wide.

W. W. Wilkins of The Whitehall Times supported the movement in his column with editorials and comments. One such was "Great interest is being manifested in the cause and the members of the club have good reason to congratulate themselves on the good work which they are prosecuting." And again, "The work in itself is the work of humanity and in its efforts to reclaim fallen men, the club should have the support and encouragement of every good citizen in its laudable work."

In their zeal the society requested a full column in the weekly newspaper in which to present their activities. Mr. Wilkins did not approve of giving up this space but did promise to report their weekly meetings.

The pattern of the programs remained the same for some time. But other activities grew and these efforts can be reported at another time as the society lasted quite a while.

The Whitehall Times March 23, 1978

March 1878 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

On St. Patrick's Day a parade was led by St. Patrick's T.B.A. Society. The line of march is different; perhaps because the parade was smaller. It started in the block south of Saunders Street at the society's rooms. From there it went up Canal to Second Avenue (present Main and Broadway). The railroad fence was not there; countermarched down Canal; (Broadway to Main) to Broad Street and across the lower bridge to Williams Street; up Williams Street to Poultney; Poultney to Potter Street to Wheeler Avenue; up Wheeler Avenue to Mountain Street; along Mountain to New (this must have been the present American Alley, as that street was there, but not named) ; down New to Williams Street; across the middle bridge to Canal Street (Main) to Division up Division Street to Church Street (Broadway); up Church Street to High Street (which at this time was from Main Street to West Street); along, High Street to West Street; down West to Saunders Street; down Saunders Street to Canal Street, and south on that Street to their, rooms.

The Whitehall Times
May 4, 1978

Clubs (Year Unknown kb)
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The new Ironclad Temperance society was organized. Members agreed to abstain from all alcoholic beverages and tobacco. The badge adopted was made of bright blue and garnet ribbon. Members made an oath. At the end of three months they would report as to whether they had kept the pledge. Everyone who did not would forfeit \$5 which would be pro-rated among the other members.

The Whitehall Times
February 1, 1979

January 1879 in Whitehall
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

North Star lodge, No. 68, Knights of Pythias, held its meeting in Castle Hall. This organization was in existence in the 1930's along with a ladies auxiliary, does anyone know where its records are? The hall was in Chase's block from where the furnishings were sold a while ago. Men connected with the organization in 1879 were Peter Hattenbeck, Henry Waters George Prefontaine, James Adams and Horace Stowell.

The Whitehall Times
October 25, 1975

Independent Order of Foresters, October 1879
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

There was a movement to organize a new council of Independent Order of Foresters in the village by William W. Newth, superintendent of the gas works. He was appointed by D.D.N.C. of Washington County at the State High Council meeting in Troy in September. As soon as a sufficient number of members are secured, a charter will be applied for. Hall's Opera House has been engaged for a few public lectures by D. O. F. Cobb, a member of Court Charter Oak, 8, of Albany County.

"This society has paid over \$225,000 to widows and orphans of deceased brothers in five years. The assessment is only 10 cents for every death. Over 400 courts and 13,000 members are located in the United States and Canada."

The Whitehall Times
March 13, 1980

Taconic & La Favorite Clubs, 1880
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Taconic association gave a dictionary party, each member dressing appropriately and acting out the meaning of a word.

The La Favorite club members entertained with; charades and shadow pantomimes.

The Whitehall Times
September 18, 1980

Whitehall Canoe Club, September 1880
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Whitehall Canoe club was organized with nine members and eight canoes. The officers were Henry J. Earl, commodore; J. Fred Warner, vice-commodore; E. A. Greenough, secretary and treasurer. The boys had made excellent time thus far, Mr. Greenough having come in second best at the Lake George tournament.

The Whitehall Times
January 1, 1981

Taconic & La Favorite Clubs, 1881
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The members of the Taconic Club observed New Years by making calls (a common practice not too long ago). The barouche consisted of a crockery crate, beautifully inlaid with rye straw and frescoed with evergreens. This regal coach rested upon, a pair of runners of an ancient and unique pattern. The whole gay equipage was drawn by a pair of equine steeds of the a la canaille epoch and as the party passed through the streets they attracted as much attention as the establishment of the Good Noah did when it started upon its remarkable voyage in search of Mount Ararat. The La Favorite club gave a Leap Year party. The gentlemen were invited until 12 o'clock the ladies had charge of the floor asking the gentlemen to dance.

But at 12, then the old year "stepped out with a leap" the gentlemen assumed, the management.

The Whitehall Times
June 3, 1982

Washington County Veterans Reunion, August 30, 1882
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Besides honoring the deceased veterans of the Wars of 1812 and the Civil War on Memorial Day in 1882, the citizens of Whitehall extended an invitation to the Washington Veterans association to hold its annual reunion in Whitehall.

On 31 May Capt. Luke H. Carrington, Lt. William Sinnott and Sgt. Murphy attended the meeting of this association at Sandy Hill (Hudson Falls) to give this invitation. Representatives of eight of the county's towns were present. Newly elected president General T.J. Strong accepted the invitation for 30 August in Whitehall. William Sinnott then nominated W.D.W.C. Hill as marshal for the occasion and he was duly elected.

The Whitehall Times announced this event and declared that the citizens of Whitehall would make every exertion to receive the veterans of the county with their usual hospitalities. Already Captain Carrington had been assured by General Slocum of Burlington two years before that he would come to New York and deliver the address whenever the reunion was in Whitehall. Luke H. Carrington served in the 123d Regiment Company in the Civil War.

A committee of Mr. Hill, Carrington, Sinnott and Casey invited the citizens of Whitehall to meet at the village hall to discuss the entertainment of the veterans 16 June. At that time a great number met and chose as their officers Honorable H. G. Burleigh, president; Dr. Henry Root, secretary; T.S. Patterson and John C. Earl, corresponding secretaries. Then they named business men and gave them "every power to act in every particular to make the occasion successful." Village business men James Doren, W. H. Cooke, S. K. Griswold, E. E. Bascom, W. B. Eddy, W. S. Stufflebeam, H. R. Synder, R. H. Cook, A. P. Cooke, James Spenser, F. A. Hotchkiss; lawyers J. B. Potter, T. A. Lillie, O. F. Davis; Editors W. A. Wilkins, W. H. Tefft; druggists Lawrence Corbett, O. A. Manville; and from the farms, S. Hollister, J. J. Pangman, George Kingsley and W. J. Wood. Hon. Burleigh considered a person who "never found any such verb as "to fail," declared the affair would be as good as the splendid reunion that Salem had.

At future meetings discussions concerned music, orations, supplies, refreshments, "Any veteran who came would not be allowed to remain hungry." On August 16 even the railroad timetable would be announced. Corps from outside the County was invited, especially from Troy and Schuylerville and other towns notified that they did not need a special invitation. Captain Carrington was drilling the veterans of the village twice a week and found that they were in good spirits and had not forgotten their old way of handling guns.

The event of 30 August will be described next.

The Whitehall Times
June 10, 1982

Washington County Veterans Reunion, August 30, 1882
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

How would 10,000 people be handled in Whitehall? Those of us around in 1959 know how it was done for Whitehall's Bicentennial. This was how it was done in 1882.

Arrivals: General Slocum, Aug. 29, at the Opera House hotel on Williams street; special trains from Eagle Bridge via Castleton with veterans and others from Fort Edward with a large delegation from the south; from Port Henry with a large group. In all 23 (rail) cars brought about 2,500 people.

Parade Units: Greenwich; Hartford with drum corps; Argyle with band; Fort Ann with drum corps; Sandy Hill (Hudson Falls) with drum corps; Fort Edward with band; Fair Haven, Vt., Post Bosworth with drum corps; Ticonderoga Post Weed; Poultney, Vt., Post Joyce; Salem with band; Cambridge with band; un-uniformed soldiers formed into a company under Lieutenant Colonel Root.

Procession: Colonel Russell, marshal and aides; Austin band; Burleigh Corps; General Strong and officers of the Veterans association: Hon. H. G. Burleigh, president of the citizens committee; General Rogers and disabled soldiers in carriages; Rev. John Lowrey, chaplain, reception committee and the press in carriages; Post of J. H. Bosworth, Fair Haven, under J.W. Parkhurst; Post Weed of Ticonderoga under McMorehouse; Hartford veterans with Capt. J. B. Carrigan; Sandy Hill veterans with Capt. John Dwyer; Greenwich veterans with Capt. George S. Orr; Fort Ann veterans with Capt. A. A. Budd; Granville veterans with Capt. A. C. Polk; Salem veterans with Capt. W. J. Cruikshank; Whitehall veterans with Capt. L. H. Carrington; Fort Edward veterans with Capt. George Scott; Lieut. Col. Root with veterans un-uniformed; section of Steanburgh's Battery of Troy.

Line of March: From reunion grounds (probably Adams field) at 10:30, down Sixth Street (Maple) to Canal Street (Broadway) to lower bridge; to Williams Street up to Covered Bridge (New Road); to Canal and to Sixth Street to reunion grounds.

Dinner: Tables beneath tent of the late Paul's and Austen's Circus; plates laid for 500 persons at one time, serving by the ladies of the community with everything substantial and good and plenty of it. 3,000 were fed in this manner.

Hon. H. G. Burleigh's open house: Dinner at his home for orators of the day, officers of the day, distinguished guests and members of the press. Fifty were served here.

Exercises: Review at the grandstand with Generals Slocum, Strong and Rogers reviewing the men formed in three lines marching by the stand, stacking arms, and listening to the addresses; prayer by Capt. Gordon, Whitehall Glee Club, "The Camp Fire Burns;" H.G. Burleigh's address of welcome; Gen. J.T. Strong, president of the Washington County Veterans association (very short); Gen. H.W. Slocum of Brooklyn's reminiscent census of the Civil War; Gen. Charles Hughes of Sandy Hill with a tribute to Gen. McQuade of Utica; Chaplain Gordon of Coila on veterans' reunions and pensions;

Rev. N. Lockwood's eulogy to Whitehall's late Colonel Tanner; Rev. J. E. Hill's benediction.

Decorations: Flags were everywhere; Sixth Street, Canal and Williams Streets covered with red, white and blue; arch opposite Times office in flatiron building; Hank Waters' market; P. W. Barry's drug store; Fred Gallord's gift store; Grand Union Hotel; H. R. Wait's store; Burleigh Corps armory; Opera House Hotel, and many others were elaborately trimmed with bunting.

Grand Ball in the evening at Opera House. Papers the following week gave many items on the reunion. Editor Wilkins had put out on 30 August the Whitehall Times in blue ink and presented a copy to each veteran; he wore a red, white and blue outfit. Horse hitching arrangements were adequate in an adjoining field to the stand. Burleigh Corps were arrayed in helmet hats, red coats and white pants. H. D. C. Hall, had been chosen marshal but was ill and watched the parade from his house at which he was serenaded. The list of workers was long and detailed. Credit was given to everyone who had made the reunion the talk of the county, Whitehall, then, as well as now, was noted for its hospitality.

The Whitehall Times August 18, 1983

Whitehall Canoe Club, August 1883 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Races seem to have been a frequent form of entertainment in the 1880's in Whitehall. There were horse races, bicycle races, foot races, walking races, and now a canoe race on 4 August 1883.

The Whitehall Canoe Club performed on Wood Creek from Boardman Street Bridge to Saunders Street Bridge at 6:30 p.m. This was before the canal was set over into Wood Creek. The canoes were manned by Frank and Will Cooke, Otis Dennis, Edward Bascom, Samuel Moore, Edward Newcomb, Ernest and Gordon Greenough and Lenny Gordon was substituting for Commodore R. E. Bascom.

The bank of the creek and Saunders Street Bridge was lined with several hundred spectators to watch the review of the little crafts as they glided over the water. After the review came the paddling race. The judges were Editor Tefft, M.J. Brown and W.B. Inglee. When the canoeists were given the word "Go", the paddlers dipped the water and shot the canoes away at a lively clip. The favorite before the start was Ed Bascom and the Cooke boys but as Ed had been ill did not at first intend to enter the race at all; he followed along and came on third. Young Gordon was not a member of the club and would have been barred from competing had there been a prize at stake, but he came in half a length ahead of Will Cooke. The order on which the members came in was: Gordon Greenough, Will Cook, Edward Bascom, Ernest Greenough, Frank Cooke, Otis Dennis, Henry Earl, and Samuel Morse.

This race was followed by the dump race. Three entries for this started from above and paddled to the designated point where at a signal from a horn, the three canoes

were dumped over, the men going under them. Frank Cooke was ahead, Ernest Greenough next and Will Cooke last. The latter as he went over, lost his paddle and caused delay. The other men came up in good style and went on to the end.

Frank Cooke then gave some great exhibitions of skill in handling the cockpit of his canoe. He rolled over in the water without leaving the cockpit of his canoe and righted every time. This was witnessed by the crowd who were delighted with the exhibition and went away, all wishing for a repetition.

The Whitehall Times
March 17, 1983

St. John Baptist Society, February 1883
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The 5 February ball of St. John Baptist Society at Griswold Hall had a large attendance. The Society opened a supper room in the house back of the hall and many partook of the hospitality. The attendance was the largest of any held in the hall to be entertained, by Prcor's Band.

The Whitehall Independent
March 21, 1984

Layyah Missionary - February 1884
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Layyah Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church, composed entirely of children, was formed to educate a Siamese child. An entertainment was planned around selections from Mother Goose with melodies and appropriate costumes. With the entertainment were a fair and a festival at which fancy articles were sold and a supper served - all at Griswold Hall. Admission was ten cents. The grand procession was at 7:30 p.m.

Having learned about Whitehalls as grown-ups and seen their adult pictures, it is a bit of a twist to imagining them as children in Mother Goose costumes: as Morgan Griswold, Little Boy Blue; Fred Doren, a Fiddler Three; John Clark, Tommy Snooks; Lillie Potter, Miss Muffet; Alena Manville, Maid of Honor; Charley Travis, Bun Man; Boyce Potter, Simple Simon; Melvin Barker, Shearer.

The side shows cost ten cents, also, to hear nursery rhymes and songs and watch tableaux. The Affair lasted two nights and netted \$115, a good sum for the "cause."

The Whitehall Times
August 15, 1985

Railroad Y.M.C.A. - 1885
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Railroad Y.M.C.A. organized in the first week of July. It was organized in the Burleigh Building opposite Queen Street on Canal Street began with \$900 in its civil government and two subjects in methods of teaching. The certificate granted treasury. The D & H Company gave \$365 per year for its support. There were many such organizations over the country which had already produced good results. The officers elected were President William B. Eddy; vice president C. A. Humphrey; Secretary J. A. Connery; Treasurer W. W. May. The nature of the organization can be seen in its appointed committees: finance, devotion, visitation, entertainment, room and library, special on fitting up rooms. A secretary and treasurer on salary were hired from Roanoke, Virginia.

The Whitehall Times
September 4, 1986

Christian Endeavor Society - 1886
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The ecumenical Christian Endeavor Society was formed in Whitehall on 3 October. Members from four churches, Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist and Episcopal numbered 150. James Parke was president; John Doren, vice president; and Annie Wilkins, secretary-treasurer.

The Whitehall Times
January 29, 1987

Ladies Aid Society of Whitehall - 1887
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A Novelty in Money Making

The progressive Ladies Aid Society of Whitehall advertised a novel way to make money. They organized a competition on word building - a list of English words using the letters from WORD MAKING COMPETITION. Each contestant would pay fifty cents entrance fee. This would be divided: one-half in deposit for the Ladies Aid Society; one-half deposited in a fund to be distributed to the five persons sending in a list of correctly spelled English words by 19 March at noon. The list was to be in ink and in

alphabetical order. There were strict rules as to which words could be used to qualify. We'll look for the winners in the March papers.

The Whitehall Times
February 5, 1987

Whitehall in 1887
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Sparkling Lodge of I.O.G.T. had a very successful year. The membership of 100, composed mainly of young men, had a good financial position and had fine programs for the public. The first temperance agitation began in Whitehall in 1830. The first one to sign a temperance pledge was Walter Wright, fifth son of Enoch who was a pioneer in northeast Whitehall.

A seemingly appropriate title was taken by the ladies of the community when they chose the Chang Band. Its first object was to educate a Siamese scholar for missionary work. They supplied a certain sum of money annually for the student and sent other worthy objects, one being a box of wearing apparel to the Bethany Mission in Oregon.

The Whitehall Times
February 12, 1987

Whitehall in 1887
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

On 9 March the Fish and Game Protective Society reported at its annual meeting they had destroyed 30 fish nets in the lake and were following up the work in lake this year.

The Whitehall Times
June 22, 1987

Whitehall in 1887
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Whitehall Lodge IOOF No. 5 (*International Order of Odd Fellows kb*) sent an elegant chair to the new Macdonough Lodge at Plattsburgh. The chair was of polished black walnut upholstered with crimson plush with a tall carved back designed for use of the Noble Grand.

The Grand Templar Lodge of Whitehall on 6 January took its play "Ten Nights in a Barroom" to Comstock. People from Whitehall took the 4:30 p.m. train and returned in the sleeper for 35 cents round trip. After the play there was a dance. W. B. Inglee of the Whitehall Chronicle arranged the trip.

January was the month for election of officers in the various organizations. This year election took place for Vannier Hose Company, IOOF No. 5, State Fish and Game Protective Association, St. John Baptist Society, Doren Hose Company, Whitehall Steamer No. 3, Manville Hose Company, Burleigh Hose Company, Merchants National Bank, Old National Bank, Baptist Church and others at a later date.

The Whitehall Times

February 17, 1983

Terrytown Social Club - 1895

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A Masquerade Ball

Masquerade balls were held long before the celebrated ones in the time of Marie Antoinette. Seldom do we hear of them now except in the moving pictures or when an account of one occurs in an old Whitehall Chronicle as in this report in 1895.

The Terrytown Social Club was composed of a group of young men in the section of Whitehall still called by that name. It is in the southwest part of the village that is in the area of New Arlington Hotel which at one time was termed The Terry Hotel.

Accustomed to making their own amusements, the boys held their second grand annual masquerade on 12 October 1895 in Griswold Hall located in Griswold's Iron Front — in the process of being revitalized now. The club members must have been a ritualistic organization for they used its terms on their dance programs to the mystification of the attendants.

A well known Troy costumer, Mrs. Kallenberg, arrived at the Commercial Hotel, located north of High Street that was the former Dayton Block. From her collection of masks and garbs, from noon until night she outfitted a third of the hundred costumers who attended the ball.

The newspaper in a long account was graphically written with words not ordinarily used in today's reporting. Amusement and admiration of the general mass of spectators greeted the participants. A shabby gentleman would saunter up to a princely garbed one whereupon a heroic encounter or a loving embrace would follow. Many particular characters in history were faithfully depicted.

The Grand March was led by a clown, James Dunn, and an old washerwoman, G.A. Griswold. Over 40 couples were on the floor in the march but a hundred danced afterwards. Those who did not dress in costumes wore pretty dresses or plain suits with masks. It took two hours for those in disguise to become known. Charles Barker, the Devil, was a fiend on the floor Albert Cook was a frog Jennie Stroup made a frisky topsey who could cross a river on ice cubes; George Nichols and Andrew Stanley were rustics.

The orchestra was described as performing satisfactorily, its music giving just the necessary impetus to the pedal extremities of the dancers.

Mrs. Dale, the wife of the first Silk Mill owner, was responsible for the good things included in the dinner, or rather supper, as it was usually called at such an affair. Oddly enough the menu was not given.

The article continued with the names and costumes of a Whitehall Who's Who of that day: James King, Mattie Martin, E. W. Barker, Guy Cowen, Frank and Fred Jalet, John Edmonds, Hermione Douglass, Grace Corbett, Elisha Manville, May Combs, Emma Douglas — school teachers, pharmacists, architects, undertakers, belles of the town, gay blades — all who were out for a pleasant evening.

The Whitehall Independent **July 11, 1984**

Terrytown Social Club - 1897 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

In an earlier issue was an account of the antics of the Terrytown Social Club, an organization of very wide awake young gentlemen of the village at the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Barker. After it appeared, Mrs. Helen King called to report a like occurrence that happened at the wedding of Joseph P. King and Molly Green. Recently in a scrapbook I found that account.

On 6 October 1897 two popular young people were married at Our Lady of Angels (*Church kb*). Joseph was one of the leading spirits of the club, a rule of which there could be no married members. On that day at 8 p.m. the couple arrived at the church to be met by eight members of the club who escorted them inside in procession. After the ceremonies, these members formed two lines through which the couple passed. The church bell struck one, the signal for the firing of the large cannon nearby in the Brett lot. This boomed at intervals all evening and shook the village.

After the wedding supper, a great fantastic carriage rolled up to the door on West Street, a very large affair looking like a hay wagon, decorated with gay bunting and lit with the glare of many burning torches and noisy with the clanging of cow bells. The couple was seated on a pedestal in the center like a king and queen, with their attendants Harriet Holcomb and William King and the club members. Amid Roman candles and Greek fire and all the noise, they were driven to the station. There fifty pounds of rice were opened and scattered over the nearby area.

On the train all eight members passed out handbills to the passengers announcing the wedding and the passengers were forced to go to the couple to congratulate, except one woman. The couple was marched to her for her congratulations. Mottoes were posted in all the coaches. At Fort Edward a final display of fireworks took place.

Joseph and Molly were the fourth wedding in the club to be married. The others up to that time were John Tierney, Herbert Smally, and George Nichols. Mr. and Mrs. Barker were married the next year.

The Whitehall Independent
January 8, 1983

Terrytown Social Club - 1898
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Many social, religious, fire, and political societies existed at one time or another in Whitehall; but many are only vaguely remembered or not recalled at all. Such a one was the Terrytown Social Club.

Terrytown was a section of the village somewhere between Sixth Avenue (Maple Street) and First Avenue. Some years before 1898 there was a social group known as the Terrytown Social Club. Young men of great imagination and ingenuity belonged to it. They were active with social affairs but only single men could be members. If one married, he roused the ire of the remainder and woeful circumstances surrounded the backslider on his physical being. After punishment he was not molested again but was excommunicated from the club.

In July 1898 one Charles T. Barker took to wife one May I. Combs, a Whitehall teacher. The wedding was supposed to be private for the family only, but eight Terrytowners learned of it and "crashed" the reception. The wedding party sent out for ice cream for the guests. Pretending concern over an imagined injury of the groom's hand, one of them slipped a handcuff on the wrist when he extended it for inspection. Thus shackled to the member, the luckless groom was led out to where two carriages waited and he was spirited off to Fort Ann. There from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. he went through a series of pranks which was ended by his formal excommunication from the club. He was then returned to the bride waiting in Whitehall.

True to their word the groom was not molested again but he vowed vengeance on the next one of the club who entered the state of matrimony! The club members added many wedding presents on the couple's collection.

Wouldn't those of us who knew Mrs. Barker have loved to hear her rendition of this event? She did give a description of the Central Building school rooms of the early days, as she taught in the system for many years. She was the first president of the Whitehall Teachers Association when it was formed in the 1930's.

The Whitehall Independent
August 8, 1984

Theta Delta Club
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A Wedding in the "Old Times"

Home weddings were different from the usual stylized church ones. This was the case when Florence S. Dale of Poultney Street was married to Edward Clark of Poultney. Florence was the daughter of Frederick S. Dale who brought the silk industry to

Whitehall. She had lived in Meyers Castle on West Hill when her father operated the silk mill and was used to ostentation.

Like the Terrytown boys and their social club, the young ladies of the community formed such a club called the Theta Delta Club. Unlike the "Boys", however, their aim was to assist the first member to "embark on the sea of matrimony with every aid in their power."

Miss Dale was the first to marry. It followed that the group attended the bride on the eve of her wedding and for several days before in decorating the large parlors of her parents with festoons of evergreen, palms, potted plants, ferns and flowers.

At the end of the south parlor they erected an enclosure to be used for the ceremony. At the top was placed a large white bell of white flowers and on the back a ground of evergreens with the initials "D. C." also in white flowers. A white cord and tassel marked the entrance. From the gas fixtures in the center of the room to its corners were ropes of evergreen, as well as along the stair railing. Plants and flowers around the room added to the festive look.

A different musical during the ceremony was the singing of the entire musical score of the "Bridal Chorus" from Wagner's "Lohengrin". This was followed by the music of the Episcopal Church boys' choir under the direction of L. D. Tefft and Herman Sullivan the accompanist. The era in which this wedding took place can be recognized by the names of the boys in the choir: Harry Dalton, Kenneth Newcomb, Timothy Inglee, Buell Ames, William Kelly, and David Inglee.

Fifty guests attended the wedding. The bridesmaids were four in number besides the maid of honor: Clara Bascom, Alena Manville, Katherine Burdett and Libbie Carr. The maid of honor was Lulu Dale. The bride carried a large bouquet of white roses which was made up of five separate bouquets containing emblems that were to show the fortunes of the bridesmaids. (Were all married next?) Master Dalton then sang DeKoven's "O! Promise Me" and after congratulations a well prepared and well served collation was served in the dining room decorated with white and gold ribbons and flowers.

Usually the account of a wedding ended with a long list of the wedding gifts to the couple with the names of the donors. They were omitted in this account or perhaps the scrapbook maker ran out of space or time.

The Whitehall Times

August 29, 1985

Modern Woodsmen of America - 1904

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Woodmen's Banquet

Old issues of Whitehall newspapers give accounts of fraternal organizations not now in existence. Their activities seem many and varied. What happened to all their records and who can reminisce stores heard about them?

One social occasion of an organization was a banquet of the Modern Woodmen of America, Whitehall Camp No. 10,479 at the Commercial Hotel on 23 August 1904. This society was not mentioned in the Whitehall Directory of 1892-1893 but was active in 1904. In June of that year nine members of the Foresters team challenged nine other members to a contest in securing new members. The losing side was to furnish a dinner for the winners together with their wives and lady friends.

The Foresters held their dinner in the large dining room of the Commercial Hotel under the management of Landlord Roth and his daughter Ruth, Mrs. Dennis Bebo Jr. The toastmaster was Escort George Douglass who called on various members to speak. Two talked at great length on the advantages of being a Woodsman, venerable Counsel D.A. Rodd and Chief Forester L.D. Prouty. Some of the ladies spoke on the "Nice fat" insurance policy of the order. The banquet and speaking lasted until one o'clock for the forty persons who attended.

The menu? If the dishes of a modern buffet were listed would it list be the equal of this? Appetizers - Queen olives, celery, oyster cocktails, canapés caviar, soup-Bouillon de Pjoulé, and salad lobster, cucumbers and tomatoes with croquettes de Fantasia; main course of cold beef, tongue, and ham with vegetables and chicken salad; dessert, sherbet, cake, cheese, fruits, Saratoga Water, cigars.

The Degree Team was composed of L. D. Prouty Chief Forester; E. Rodd assistant; H. Perry secretary; F.A. Foote, treasurer; Foresters F. Perry, E. Bartholomew, P. O. Fish, Jr.; James Clark, L. Phillips, Joseph Jemery.

An announcement in the same 26 August 1909 Chronicle told of a visit of the National and State Woodmen to be held the following Monday, 29 August, at the Music Hall. The general public was invited to hear National Director E. E. Morphy of Leavenworth, Kansas; R. R. Smith of Brookfiels, Missouri; State Deputy Harry Franklin of Albany; District Deputy W. Croner; and State Lecturer E. E. Ganford. They would be entertained at a banquet at the Commercial Hotel.

It was announced that the local Order of Woodmen had increased in numbers and that an aggressive campaign for other members was being held.

The Whitehall Independent February 18, 1987

The Civic Improvement League of Whitehall - 1908 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

For a period of over fifty years there was an organization in the village called The Civic Improvement League of Whitehall. It was an organization that worked in the community for the bettering of conditions that we now take for granted. When the Society was disbanded, its record books were presented to the Historical Society of Whitehall. From these the improvements the League made can be recounted and credit given.

On a stormy February 19, 1908, many women gathered at the Williams Street School for its first meeting at 3:30 PM. The school was the meeting place for some time.

Preliminary work had been done on a constitution. It was read at the meeting and adopted at the second. An election of officers took place also. Charter members were enrolled at this time. The list contains the names of prominent families of the town at that time. Women were not using their first names as is prevalent at this time. These members were: Mrs. John Barton, Mrs. Barton, Mrs. Bromley, Mrs. Hattie Brown, Mrs. Louis Cuneo, Mrs. John Duffield, Mrs. Durfee, Mrs. Mary Dane, Mrs. G.S. Ellis, Miss Ellen Farrington, Mrs. Hebert, Mrs. Jack Israel, Mrs. T.A. Lillie, Mrs. Manell, Mrs. Audrey Meyer, Mrs. George H. Noyes, Mrs. Georgianna Plaumend and Mrs. Alida Lattimore.

The objectives of the Civic League expressed in the constitution were to educate and organize public sentiment along the lines of improved public health, wholesome sanitary conditions, better schools, and improved civic conditions generally.

In addition to the usual society officers was a set of honorary officers and the election of a superintendent for each of seven districts into which the village was divided. These were: 1. south of Boardman Street; 2. North of Boardman Street to the junction of Canal (Main) and Church Streets; 3. North of this junction to Tug Hill; 4. Tug Hill; 5. South Williams Street; 6. North Williams Street; 7. Around the Mountain.

The objectives were emphasized in the committee structure: Program, Education, Library, Town Improvement, Junior Civic League, Membership, Entertainment, Complaints, Cemetery. These showed a clearly thought out plan for the work of the League.

The first officers elected were President Mrs. Alida Lattimore; First Vice President Mrs. John Duffield; Second Vice President Mrs. L.J. Summerfield; Third Vice President Mrs. Peter Shovah; Secretary Miss Grace Skeels; Corresponding Secretary Miss Emma Neddo; Treasurer Miss Mary Brown; Librarian Mrs. F.L. Andrews. With the admonition that personal feelings should be put down and pulling together in the campaign of education was necessary, the officers started that first year with a warning that wonders could not be expected or accomplished all at once.

In following articles some of the projects of the Civic League will be described. They concerned conditions that were corrected after a few tactful hints from the Ladies and their follow-up work. Gentlemen were welcomed as members to the Society as honorary members and some took advantage of the position.

The Whitehall Independent February 25, 1987

The Civic Improvement League Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Civic Improvement League began immediately to reach their objectives for the public. They went directly "to the top" in every question and distributed information by using the public relations in the two Whitehall newspapers - Times and Chronicle; printing "dodgers" (posters) for prominent display in the established districts of the village; writing letters, and visiting scenes under discussion.

An act of the first discussion meeting was to acknowledge the work of Dr. Guinon who had quickly isolated cases of small pox, preventing the spread of that disease. Warren Goodrich explained the old and new charters of the village.

Postmaster Wood wrote to the national government P.O. Department and gained permission to have a box in the post office for contributions of the Civic League, as it was soon called. David Rodd presented them with a beautifully made contribution box at a special meeting held in Meyers Castle on West Hill.

Dr. Foote, President of the Board of Education, explained the greatest problem of the school at that time, keeping young people in school. Youths could leave school at age fifteen years and many did that for economic assistance to their families. The ladies suggested a woman member for the Board.

President of the Village Board of Trustees, T. A. Paterson, promised assistance in the collection of refuse left on the streets and garbage if garbage cans were supplied at various locations. The ladies investigated the possibility of securing cans through Sing Sing work but found only the signature of the Village President could secure them. In the meantime they found that the hardware merchants Willard and Marshall would sell the cans at cost. Fifteen cans were ordered and these merchants placed the cans around the village. On the first day of collection, forty loads of refuse were taken away. The cans were monitored, positions being changed if necessary and letters written to the village if collection was omitted. They were even picked up at Halloween for safe keeping.

A committee of the ladies visited the village jail and reported in a committee at a trustees' meeting the unsanitary conditions they found with suggestions. A concrete floor should replace the cinders; the walls should be whitewashed; there was a lack of cleanliness; and there were no toilet facilities.

A letter to the Superintendent of Water Works suggested a whistle be blown when the water was turned off in any part of the village. The Superintendent thought it a very good idea and complied. If it were not blown a letter soon reached him.

Not all projects were successful. The attempt at having curfew enforced met with the fact that the village charter would have to be changed. The prevention of having canal boats tie up in the village for the winter, an unsightly and unsanitary condition, met with rebuff at the state level. A cemetery association was formed, the Civic League was incorporated, a night school opened, and a sewing class for girls organized. Thoughts were implanted for a library and a playground in cooperation with the Y.M.C.A. and other nuisances pointed out spitting on the sidewalks, unsightly weeds on the streets, unsanitary conditions of outhouses, and papers thrown from the cars on Canal Street.

This doesn't seem a bad record for the first year of organization of the Civic Improvement League.

The Whitehall Independent

March 4, 1987

The Civic Improvement League and the Library

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

During the first year of its existence, 1909, The Civil League Board was informed of the work of the Y.M.C.A. This organization offered its library as a nucleus for a public library. Members of the Civic League began action on such an institution. At this time other villages were accepting the generosity of Andrew Carnegie for library buildings but the Whitehall ladies rejected that path. They wrote a newspaper article to the two papers of Whitehall, the Times and the Chronicle, listing the needs for and the benefits of such an institution in Whitehall. With the article they included a coupon for an expression of opinion of the taxpayers to be handed in.

In March a standing vote was taken on the favorable results of this vote. Possible sites had already been examined: Miller's store, the Shantee (Log Cabin), and Sullivan's rooms, but the ladies settled on the basement of Mrs. Gertrude Adams in a brick building on the corner of Wilson Alley and Williams Street with rent at \$6. The building burned some years ago.

The members of the league contributed furniture and at least one good book. Mr. Lowenstein of the Champlain Silk Mills was solicited for some book cases which he donated. The ladies also sewed rags for a rug.

In April the Civic League made a request to the village Trustees for \$300 to assist with the formation and maintenance of the library. Their reception was gratifying but they were requested to ask for an amount in January so that the sum could become an established part of the budget. The village trustees held a special meeting to hear the request. They also informed the Civic League that if the town would make a like contribution, the library would be called the Whitehall Public Library; if not, it would be called the Whitehall Free Library. The town did not appropriate the \$300 at that time and so the latter name was used. On the refusal of the town to grant money, it was not in the budget at that time, a subscription paper was circulated and the citizens subscribed much more than the amount asked for.

At the April 1909 meeting ten members were chosen for the Library Committee. Only members of the Civic League could be trustees but everyone could use the library. These first trustees were the Mesdames, W. G. C. Wood, B. H. Bascom, J. Q. Edwards, O. A. Dennis, C. J. Baldwin, F. L. Andrews, Jack Israel, George Noyes and the Misses Julia Bascom and Lulu Lotrace. Later when a State Inspector visited the library he was astonished that only one woman had accomplished such an institution and suggested a man should be on the board. Men had been given honorary membership in the first year.

By June 1909 the shelves had been installed in the library, the catalog completed, books in order, and Esther Adams hired as a librarian. To separate the books on the shelves in divisions it was suggested that covered bricks be used. June 7 a date for a Library Day be observed, the third Sunday in June.

In November 1909 Mrs. Brown of the State Library Association came to view the library. By this time there were 504 books and many magazine subscriptions. She

suggested a larger supply of children's books, catering to special interests such as agriculture and ethnic groups of the town, and that the two newspapers and cuttings of the town events would be on file.(If only this had happened what a resource of material would be on hand.) It seems that games were provided for the library hours and it was now evident that special hours and a separate room be restricted for use when the library was not open.

In October the Whitehall Free Library had a State Charter, a constitution had been drawn up and read, and all reports of the library were given for publication in the two newspapers. On 23 November 1909 it was voted that all Civic League meetings would be held thereafter in the library instead of Williams Street School. Members met there until they transferred later to the Community Association rooms.

The Whitehall Independent March 11, 1987

Whitehall Civic Improvement League Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Members of the Civic League continued to support the Whitehall Free Library with projects such as card parties, subscriptions, and volunteer labor while still holding their meetings in its rooms. In October 1911 a report was made to the League that the village trustees were attempting to gain control of land north of the bridge and the League was requested to cooperate in securing the Historical Building where the library would have rooms. Nothing was reported in the minutes until May 19, 1924 when the minutes read that the Civic League held its meeting in the new library for the first time.

This must have meant the library that was located on the second floor of the village building until it was transferred in 1953 to the present Griswold Library given to the village. During this period Miss Bessie Buel and Mrs. Lorraine Dannehy were librarians. Evidently the Whitehall Free Library had become an entity of its own. The Civic League held its meetings here for some years before meeting in other public places and in homes of its members.

The Whitehall Civic League and Boardman Cemetery

Another project of the Civic League was the care of Boardman Cemetery. Originally this cemetery consisted of two small private ones on the knoll bordering Smith Street. Smith cemetery was to the north of Boardman. Later family plots of the Martins, Manvilles, Jones, Gaylords and other were here, semi-private in nature. These lots were consolidated into one known as Boardman Cemetery. There was no general plan as a whole and no cemetery organization. To correct this condition the Civic Improvement League became interested.

In October 1908 the members voted to form a cemetery association to care for this neglected section. Mrs. John Doren was chosen chair of the committee. In the spring of 1909 letters were sent to owners of the lots explaining this project and requesting that these owners follow the League to care for the lots. In May a Tag Day for funds brought \$302.86. Estimates for a fence to enclose the area were requested. A

necessary survey of the land held up the work but it was hoped the fence would be up by winter. By fall three sides had been enclosed, leaving the iron gates and front to be completed in the spring. The gate posts of this first fence are on the Museum grounds. The Civic League had collected a large sum of money for the cemetery work which was turned over to the Cemetery Committee.

In the summer of 1909 concrete steps of the pedestrian's entrance as finished, water was put in, and the care of grass and paths promised. Over the years the committee labored to keep the cemetery in order. The project was written up in the Knickerbocker News of Albany and that brought in permission of more lot owners to place the lots in the care of the committee. Another source of money was the sale of cemetery lots that were given to the committee and then sold. The first such lot was one in Smith Cemetery (this term is still used in the description of this section).

In January 1913 the Boardman heirs gave a deed to the knoll to the village. The Smith area was also given to the trustees about the same time. The trustees in turn placed the cemetery in the hands of the Civic League, who had cared for it so long and gave \$100 as an appropriation. In that year contracts for perpetual care were made with the lot owners and the village agreed to care for the roadways. More lots were entrusted to the committees' care, the fences were kept in order. A triangular plot was made into a flower garden.

In 1931 the Civic League passed a resolution concerning perpetual care of the lots. In 1933 the failure of the National lost them \$1900, some of which was later recovered. At the 13 March 1934 meeting an announcement was made that the Committee would discontinue caring for the cemetery as the village trustees had taken the project over. At a following meeting a 25 year history of the Civic League's participation in the cemetery was read but no copy of it was placed in the minutes. Now the village has the care of the cemetery and in its records have a map and a list of the burials in Boardman's Cemetery.

The Whitehall Independent

March 18, 1987

Whitehall Civic Improvement League and the Playground

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

"The mills of the gods grind slow" — is a paraphrase that can be applied to the 1908-1917 growth of the playground. Members of the Civic League became interested in a playground in their first year of activity when Mr. Cookingham of the Y.M.C.A. spoke of the need, especially for the young boys of the town. The first step was to investigate nine or ten sites in the village but none was found to be suitable or desirable. A helpful public relations article in the newspapers showed the need for such an attraction.

In 1910 a petition to the Superintendent of Public Works asked for land but the petitioners were advised to wait for a more appropriate time. Aubrey Meyer of the silk mill offered a piece of land on West Street. Encouraged, the members of the Civic League wrote for pamphlets of instruction on the organization and equipment of a

playground and even bought a book for the library on the subject. A state meeting on playgrounds in Rochester report gave encouragement also. Mr. Meyer was asked to speak at the playground opening but there was no further information about this site as to location or length of duration.

In 1916 the abandoned canal land came into discussion again. A bank balance of \$339 for a playground had been gathered. A reply from another letter to Albany not being satisfactory, the members of the Civic League appealed to the Village trustees, who had recognized the problem, to see if they would give support to the League. As a result in June 1916 the Superintendent of Public Works granted permission to use the state ground for a playground. This letter of permission was given to the library to keep in its files for safety. The grant included a warning if the work was not started within three months from date of permit, the grant would be withdrawn. In November the Civic League Playground Committee turned the project over to the town board. Two months later a Playground Association was formed consisting of 24 members, one half of Civic League members and one half of Business Men's Association. Two months after that the sentiment of the Superintendent of Public Works was so favorable for the use of the land in their correspondence that the town board appropriated \$200 in its budget for preparing the ground. The Civic League gave \$360 for the equipment. The Project Playground dreamed up in 1908 was now completed for the Civic Improvement League.

In 1911 the Civic "League fixed its sights on another place. The land south of the present Riverside Park and house became so-called abandoned State Land because of the realignment of the canal. The Superintendent of Public Works in Albany replied to a letter that League should send an application and plans for such a ground. At this request the Businessmen's Association was asked for assistance which included the plans of Mr. Nehr of the Y.M.C.A.

In 1912 a playground committee was formed. Between February 1912 and April 1915 there was no mention about a playground in the minutes but in that April methods of organizing a playground and the list of the apparatus needed were assembled.

The Whitehall Independent

March 25, 1987

Whitehall Civic Improvement League and Riverside Park

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

One objective of the Civic Improvement League was the beautification of Whitehall, especially Canal Street, the main thoroughfare. From its organization in 1908 the society members had objected to papers thrown from cars, ugly weeds along the walks, and filth on the streets. Yearly the struggle was against ashes being thrown on roads and streets, and piled in large mounds.

In 1911 the Civic League worked in conjunction with the village in getting the piece of land south of Saunders Street Bridge, (in the first article on the Civic League, I wrote north instead of south). The planting of trees was always urged. Information was sought from Alderman John O'Neil.

During the period 1907 - 1912 the Champlain Barge Canal was produced by abolishing the three locks for one and setting the canal east into Wood Creek extending it southward. This left a distressful pile of debris, boulders, hunks of concrete, mud, and dirt. It was this section from the bridge south that had held the old canal that was considered for a park.

In 1913 the Civic League discussed a park. In 1914 they chose a Committee for Town Improvement and asked the town what it expected of them in developing a park. They were already collecting a Park Fund. In the spring of 1914 Alderman John O'Neil, street commissioner, was in charge of producing a park from the ash piles and other rubbish. The land south of the bridge was leased by the State to the Village indefinitely.

By May 6 grading had been finished. By May 13 the name Riverside Park had been formed from marble pieces from the old canal bridge and placed at the north side of the park. By 20 May the fountain was brought from the high school where it had been placed from in front of the flatiron building, taken down to build Lock 12, by Edwin Hall. By 27 May trees had been planted. On 6 June two flower urns were brought from Rev. Charles E. Hamilton's lawn on South Canal Street, the present Nash home. (One has been destroyed.) For years the Civic League kept them filled with flowers with Conrad Bergmeier's advice. The League supplied benches for the park, even to seeing about winter storage. On 1 July a flag pole 52 feet long with a ten inch copper ball was raised at the north end of the park.

On 4 July the park was dedicated. The flag was raised by Miss Catherine Eights Boies Potter, daughter of Admiral Potter. The affair was arranged by the Spanish War Veterans. Rev. Hamilton was the speaker. He made a special tribute to the Civic Improvement League who "had awakened the citizens to a sense of civic pride. They can point with pride to the beautiful Riverside Park." A newspaper advertisement of Fred W. Goodrich said that pictures of the dedication and flag raising were available.

Has anyone seen any of these? Four years later the boulder project for the park was taken up by the Civic League.

The Whitehall Independent

April 1, 1987

Whitehall Civic Improvement League and the Boulder

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In May 1919 the Civic Improvement League received a letter from the Business Men's Association by President Lamberton asking that they raise \$100 toward a bronze memorial tablet. It was to be placed in Riverside Park to honor the service men.

A year and a half went by before the Civic League minutes showed a memorial in the park was a subject of discussion, 11 October 1921. A few months later, 14 February 1922, definite action was taken by gaining information about a bronze tablet. It was learned that the design they chose would cost \$120. Evidently this price seemed too high for a request went out for someone to donate a boulder and one on Edwin Hall's mansion grounds on West Mountain was investigated.

As usual, a boulder fund was established and letters were dispatched to granite dealers in the area. On 10 January 1923, a special meeting was held with Temple Brothers in Rutland. Their offer was to attend to all the work and have the boulder set in the park by Memorial Day. To accomplish this project the Civic League members asked prominent citizens to serve: Rev. Berger of the Presbyterian Church, William Inglee of the Whitehall Chronicle, Dr. Falkenbury, and John Doren of Doren Brothers.

In memory of those who made the Supreme Sacrifice
and
In Honor of
Those who served
1917 World War 1918

During the early months of its life the Civic League held meetings twice a month. Soon the decision was made that the first meeting have a business agenda and the second primarily a social one. This led to the variety of literary and informational programs that the League became noted for.

In May of its first year a badge of identification was chosen. It was a blue ribbon with the words "Civic League of Whitehall" which was sold for ten cents and worn on public appearances. The color of the letters was not given. (I wonder if any of these are in existence?) Over the years a great number of Whitehall belonged to the Civic Improvement League.

To pay for the boulder the Civic League conducted a house to house drive (\$273.10) and used Tag Day money (\$135). At the Memorial Day services the granite boulder was unveiled and presented to the Village of Whitehall by President C. H. Souter of the Civic League.

The next idea explored was to have the names of service men put on the tablet, providing the list could be obtained from the Whitehall Chronicle. It must be it couldn't be readily obtained or would be too cumbersome, for the tablet in the park, flanked by evergreens and guns, reads: ?????????

The Whitehall Independent April 8, 1987

Whitehall Civic Improvement League Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Civic Improvement League concerned itself with many projects that benefited the community. The implementation of them necessitated time to cut "red tape" and move through interrelation with other organizations of the town through the years.

The Civic Improvement League and the Community Rooms

In January 1920 the members discussed the need for a rest room for the women shoppers in downtown. In October of that year Reverend Quinn approached the League concerning a plan for a Community Association in the village. Rooms would be needed

and the Civic League was asked to form a committee with other local societies to raise the necessary funds to equip them. By the end of that year the rooms were furnished. The League loaned its piano, a possession that they had obtained by long labor in selling coupons. The rooms, by hearsay, seem to have been over the Grand Union of that time between Division and Saunders Streets on Main.

In February 1921 the meetings of the Civic League were transferred from the library to the Community Rooms where a rest room had been established. Here receptions and card parties were held for worthy causes.

The last meeting of the Civic League in the Community Rooms was in November 1923. No reason was given but the rooms were to be dismantled and the dishes and furniture were to be sold. In 1923 the money received from the sale was given to the League and the piano was on loan to the Masonic Temple. This eventually found its way back to the library in the Village Building. It was given to the Historical Society on the dissolution of the League. It now rests in the new court room in the Village Building and has been newly refinished.

The Civic Improvement League and the Hospital

Another project with which the Civic Improvement League was concerned was the hospital, or perhaps it should be called an emergency room. There are no available newspapers of this period, but it is known that the first Y.M.C.A. north of the present Knights of Columbus burned in 1911. It held a reading room, a little stage, an emergency room, room for railroaders, and a gym. A new Railroad Y.M.C.A. was erected on the present Knights of Columbus site. In it was established an emergency room. In October 1914 the Ladies of the League were asked to furnish sheets and pillow cases. A month later Dr. Falkenbury waited on a meeting and reported what was needed to carry on the work successfully and asked that the ladies arouse the people's interest in furnishing the Y.M.C.A. building and equipping an emergency room.

The Civic League responded in raising funds but waited until the school classes meeting in the building were over in June. Special projects were a sterilizer in 1915 and a pulmotor in 1916. The last effort recorded for the Y.M.C.A. was the suggestion that the grounds be beautified. A month after, they were assured that the Railroad gardener would attend to this project.

The Civic Improvement League and the Old Ladies Home in Greenwich

In 1910 the Old Ladies Home in Greenwich came to the attention of the Civic League. They learned there was room for three Whitehall women. The League was soon involved in assisting raising funds and providing a permanent home and an endowment fund. They gave donations parties. They met with the Business Men's Association to plan what could be done for this county wide project. Both organizations made subscription drives and delivered a sum for this fund by Thanksgiving through the work of the Old Ladies Home Committee that had been formed.

The Whitehall Independent
April 15, 1987

Whitehall Civic Improvement League and the Junior Civic League
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In its first year, 1908, the Civic Improvement League became aware of what a junior league could do for the beautification of Whitehall. Over forty children attended a meeting to hear the results of a tag day in which they had had a part. The next grass seeds were ordered and distributed and prizes promised for the finest flower garden and the neatest backyard from which debris had been removed.

A flower exhibit was held at Meyer's Castle as Mrs. Meyer was an active Civic League member. Prizes were distributed. A Christmas party was given in the same place at which 102 juniors received small statues. That winter prizes were awarded for the best window box. A Junior League was formed at the Elbow with 19 members.

In 1910, 205 Juniors wrote essays describing why they belonged to the League. In 1911 plots of land around town were allotted on which to raise plants and flowers. When in this year there was no adult leader, the Junior League, money in the bank was turned over to the Civic League. The Civic League did not abandon the youth. With the Business Men's Association, a place for a pond was secured. When Chautauqua came to town they made sure there was a junior Chautauqua, secured by petitions. Still later the Girl Scout troops were sponsored, especially those of Roxana Lewis and Mrs. Pray. Uniforms were secured for the Junior Drum and Bugle Corps of the American Legion. In 1918 Victory War Gardens were provided by the children.

In the 1920-1930's the Civic League members became a co-operative agency for traveler's aid in Whitehall. It started with assistance to a young station girl coming to Whitehall alone. One case was helping six school boys change trains. Over the years there were 1,929 calls in the area for such aid. After ten years the calls declined in number and the aid was discontinued.

In 1915 a project was started to secure free delivery of mail. Some things took time. A letter went to the Postmaster General. Replies to requests saying the matter was being looked into came over two years. In November 1918 Whitehall had Free Delivery.

There were a number of projects connected with the war effort. The members marched in Liberty Bond drives and parades, worked in the Red Cross rooms, raised money for war refugees and the Near East Relief. This latter effort took the form of selling hand decorated handkerchiefs from the Near East countries.

The Whitehall Independent
April 22, 1987

Whitehall Civic Improvement League
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Besides the large projects of the Civic Improvement League, many smaller ones were developed in the interest of the beautification of Whitehall.

The showing of moving pictures on Sunday and the kind of pictures were a continual point of notice, even to viewing them for point of reference. Health of the public was important. When Canal Street was being paved, especially, there was urging of keeping all food and drink covered and information about the unhealthy results of having flies was distributed.

The tax on oleomargarine, "the butter of the poor" was the topic of letters to state officials until the tax was removed. The muzzling of dogs, especially in July and August, was strongly urged. If you have seen pictures of the billboards along the canal, you can understand the effort to abolish them. The ladies led the movement to remove the telegraph poles that clogged the streets. They joined the Business Men's Association in prohibiting handbills distributed to make for litter free streets. The parking of bicycles and cars was decried. There was a rubbish ordinance that stated bicycles were vehicles and should not be allowed on sidewalks.

When the canal was being realigned, the Atlantic and Pacific Construction Company was asked to save the relics from the Revolutionary boats and turn them over to responsible persons for a museum. You may remember such were kept in the Masonic Temple until they were placed on the Armory lawn. The Mosher Spring south of Williams Street School was deemed a possibility for a beauty spot of flowers, but they found it belonged to the school system. Over the years the focus of the Civic Improvement League changed. The improvement of Whitehall was always foremost. However, local government at other organizations took over projects they had or would have had. Even in the final year, the second meeting of the month stressed the entertainment value. There were speakers on many subjects for improvement/ education, programs of reading and music.

After the use of the Community Rooms, meetings were again held in the library and at member's homes. The twice monthly meetings changed to once a month and afternoon teas to luncheons which featured a speaker.

Ways of life changed and it became difficult to find officers with time and willingness to assume leadership. The last minutes recorded were in May, 1951. Soon after that the Civic League was dissolved leaving its piano and chairs to the Historical Society of Whitehall which had been reactivated.

Visible effects of these works of the Civic League exist in Whitehall and the mention of its name still has meaning to many citizens.

The Whitehall Times
June 24, 1976

The Civic Improvement League - 1908
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Parallels of action can often be noted in the life of a town. The 1908 account of the Whitehall Civic League resemble somewhat the present Chamber of Commerce contest to present a pleasant Whitehall to its visitors.

The Civic League, very quickly shortened from the title "Civic Improvement League," was organized Feb. 19, 1908, in the kindergarten room of Williams Street School. The objectives followed those of similar societies springing up all over the United States — to make the home town a more, beautiful and healthful place of abode with proper educational facilities.

Cliché wise, "no grass grew under these ladies' feet." On Arbor Day, May 9, a general cleanup occurred. Rubbish cans were fastened on the Main Street. During the summer these improvements were noted: The village jail renovated; the village clock repaired; new cement walks in the business section; a modern and well furnished post office; improvement in present structures; better looking yards, gardens and streets; school buildings repaired; water system and sewage system investigated.

An example is Riverside Park, which John O'Neil helped in providing. To them Whitehall owes this beautiful "centerpiece" with its shade trees, its historic watering trough, its memorial to town heroes. It had been kept a dignified place of quiet beauty.

A placard against the obnoxious spitting on sidewalks, floors and crosswalks was desired, although it was noted that spitting on the new cement sidewalks had decreased.

The work of the Civic League was expedited by having an executive board in which business matters were organized before being presented to the regular meeting. At public meetings, held every four or six weeks, noted specialists in a variety of fields were guest speakers.

A bulletin board in the post office informed citizens of the League's affairs and a suggestion box was placed in Manville's drug store.

And this was the picture the ladies saw in the crystal ball of 1908: The Barge Canal completed; the tracks of the D&H railroad in the old canal bed; Canal Street renamed Champlain Avenue and one of the most beautiful streets in the state; no business signs jutting over the streets; no merchandise blocking the passage of pedestrians; the "flats" turned into a public park; telegraph and telephone services underground.

The ladies had the cooperation of the business men.

The Whitehall Times

September 12, 1985

The Civic Improvement League - 1909

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Civic League Improvement Society in the first half of the twentieth century was a great benefactor of the Village of Whitehall. One success was the library established in the James Adams house on Williams street. This site now is a vacant space at the corner of Wilson Alley which is a pleasing lawn. \.

On 6 May 1909 a large hearted support in subscriptions for current expenses saw the establishment of the institution. Citizens sent books directly to the rooms for classification and arrangement. Miss Zaidee Brown had hoped for a deadline of the organization in June when the State Librarian was to come to Whitehall. The league asked the village to contribute support of \$350. In support of the plea one citizen figured it out that thirteen cents paid on \$1,000 wouldn't hurt anyone.

The Civic League's annual meeting in May 1911 showed the growth of the Whitehall Free Library over two years. Mrs. H. H. Bascom, treasurer of the Library committee, reported that during the year

1910-1911 the receipts had been \$1363 and the disbursements \$1040.26

Edith Adams, Librarian, gave her report for the year, somewhat similar to the one that librarians still give to the public. The number of books issued to the readers was 12,448. Books bought were 195 and donated 163. Accessioned were 1455 (could be accessioning was behind). New readers were 303 with 226 adults and 77 children. Overtime collections were \$73.56. The taxpayers contributed \$300.

From Williams Street the library was placed in the second story of the village building where Miss Buell reigned for many years, guiding adult and children's reading. With the gift of Mrs. Manville, the library was settled in its present home at Twelve Williams street in a building built by the Griswold family in 1856,

The Civic League provided many other services for the village. It had charge of the Boardman-Smith cemeteries for a time. In 1910 it made improvements in caring for the lots. For this service they collected \$399.71 and spent \$602.91 but a comfortable balance left them \$407.64 on 1 May 1911.

Mrs. John Doren was chairman of the Cemetery Committee. In her tenure with the assistance of Henry J. Waters, Street Commissioner, an iron fence was placed across the front of the cemetery. When the village recently replaced this fence, the first iron posts were erected on Skenesborough Museum grounds. About the same time as the iron fence, the concrete steps and main gate were provided. C. H. Jackson was hired to clean up the cemetery and water was put in.

One complaint received through Mrs. Bellegarde of the Complain Committee to the Ladies of the League was the unpleasant odor of the manure piles in the backyards. One person had even written to the Health Department in Albany on an especially bad one on East Boardman Street. The Ladies had no power to enforce suggestions but they could make it known that the Civic League would appreciate the cleaning up of the nuisance.'

Another project of the league was that of a Junior Civic League. Mrs. Ellis was chairman and her report stated that in 1910 the youth participated in Decoration Day ceremonies in Boardman Cemetery, the annual flower show held at the Meyers Castle Playhouse and the Christmas services in Adams and Elbow schools. Mrs. Aubry Meyers was made honorary president of the Civic League for the interest she took in the Junior Civic League.

The Whitehall Times
April 20, 1987

The Civic Improvement League
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The fame of the Whitehall Civic League, as it was known, in the first half of the twentieth century, spread to the surrounding communities. Other villages copied its organization and purposes. So much so, that Albany's Knickerbocker Press asked President Hattie Brown for its story. She complied and on 7 November 1915 the write-up appeared in the Albany paper. The article referred to the work that had been accomplished in Whitehall and gave much credit to the trustees of the village and the citizens for their efforts, especially trustee John O'Neil for his work on Riverside Park and the streets. This led to an article in Town Topics with a headline "Whitehall Owes Much to Its Noble Women." It listed the library, paved roads, cleaner streets, increase in civic pride, and a better Whitehall morally as accomplishments.

The Whitehall Independent
July 17, 1985

Junior Civic League
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A Garden Show

How many garden spots do you look forward to seeing in Whitehall each year? A few could be at the corner of Maple and Smith streets, by the wall of Liberty Eatery; the urns of Skenesborough Museum and its lilies and those of Isaac C. Griswold Library and in the American Legion Park all donated by Russell Taft, D.D.S.; the window boxes of Key Bank; the hanging baskets of the many merchants; the bed in the watering trough in Riverside Park and in front of its Veterans marker. How many more can you add? Other places could be planted around the village. How much nicer it is to see a bright flower than a bunch of old papers and cigarette butts.

Newspapers carry items about flowers and flower shows, vegetable gardens and prize vegetables. It has ever been so as it was in 1910 when the Junior Civic League held a Flower Show in September. It was held in the Play House at Meyers Castle with Mrs. Meyers as hostess.

Marie Giles, who had won first prize the year before, repeated her performance this year. She was praised not only for her flowers but also for her taste in arrangement. She won a cyclamen bearing its first blossom.

Louise Robetor, also a first prize winner in 1909, and again this year received "Stories from English History."

The vegetable prize went to Robert Harrigan for his fine cauliflower. It was offered for sale and was purchased by Mrs. Robert Hall for mustard pickles. The vegetable was scarce this year. Young Robert received a book "Docas, The Indian Boy from Santa Clara" from the Civic League.

At four o'clock the young school pupils gave recitations and Mrs. Meyer: served them all with refreshments.

How many of the "young people" of that time can some of you recall? Elinor Barker, Althea Yemans, Ethel Packard Mary Shambo, Irene Scott, Farrington Gunnison, Douglass Beckwith, Eleanor Hall Martha Souter, Miriam Sabourin

This youthful pride in growing thing will be evidenced at the up-coming Washington County Fair.

The Whitehall Times May 15, 1980

The Historical Society Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Historical Society of Whitehall honored the Whitehall High School Class of 1930 on May 10 at its annual Founders Day luncheon. This class had one of the highest percentages of attendance since the observance began.

The original Historical Society of Whitehall was suggested in 1909 when a paper was circulated to test the interest in such a group. During 1910 the society was formed and began regular meetings with programs developed by its members. The constitution and by-laws were submitted to the New granted in 1911.

From the society evolved the research work of Clarence Holden, Hermon Sullivan and Mr. Loomis. With kindred spirits they visited area cemeteries and interviewed older people in the community. From this came Clarence Holden's written records of Whitehall, now in the manuscript room of the New York State Library.

On May 2, 1951, Town Historian Elizabeth Carpenter led in the reactivation of the historical society, using the same state charter. Its first meeting was held in August. Since then five regular meetings have been held each year, with the later addition of the Founders Day Luncheon.

The first 50-year graduate observance was held in 1955 at a regular June meeting when the graduates of 50 years or over were honored. These were Mrs. George Noyes,

Mrs. Herbert Bartholomew, Mrs. I.E. Hughes, Miss Alena Manville and Mrs. Milo Johnson.

John Sheehy, president of the Class of 1955, read the names while Phyllis Saladin pinned corsages. Bernard Murphy handed out "diplomas." Leonard Rich and William Jones sang "Alma Mater." Lawrence Inglee, vice president of the Historical Society, drew reminiscences from the graduates with "Do You Remember Her?"

Some classes of alum hold annual meetings, be these get-togethers are just as happy as those held on special occasions. There joy on hearing the exciting greetings and remembrances.

The Whitehall Independent February 5, 1985

Whitehall Chronicle – December 17, 1909 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Holy Name Society of Our Lady of Angels was organized at this time.

The Whitehall Times December 13, 1973

Whitehall Shakespeare Society Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Literary societies were not unknown in Whitehall nor were lecture courses and lyceums in the early part of the century. One such organization was the Whitehall Shakespeare club. Mrs. Ruth Duggan has presented Skenesborough Museum with a printed program of this society for 1912-1913. This was in the time before radio and TV brought the classics and documentaries to the public. People interested in such matters sought out their own information and had a social time in doing it.

The members of this particular club were eleven in number. The president that year was Miss Lillian Potter, daughter of J. Sanford Potter and owner of a home on Mountain Terrace. The secretary was Miss Alena Manville, an outstanding school teacher and later Whitehall's Bicentennial Queen.

The other members were distinguished citizens. Mrs. Lucy Pearl was the daughter of Henry Gaylord, a prominent businessman. She was a school teacher. Those who knew her remember the rollicking story she used to tell of the name combinations of her pupils.

Mrs. Annie Manville was the daughter of W. A. Wilkins, editor of The Whitehall Times, who left her home as the Isaac Griswold Library.

Mrs. Loretta Doren was the wife of John Doren. We did not learn of Mrs. Lillian Andrews.

Miss Julia Bascom was the daughter of Oliver Bascom. She was interested in young people and devoted her energies to them. Miss Clara Bascom was an accomplished musician and organist in the Presbyterian Church.

Miss Grace Skeels was the daughter of businessman Hiram Skeels. She was an earnest worker in the Episcopal Church and operated a boarding home for teachers.

Miss Bessie Buel was an outstanding soprano of the village. She was a librarian in the village library for many years.

Miss Maude Manville was a teacher who assisted in training pupils in readying themselves for scholastic oratorical work.

These women banded together to form the Whitehall Shakespeare Club. Evidently the Shakespeare theme had been covered in former years as the theme for 1912-13 as stated in the program was "France, delightful France, my theme shall be." Meetings were held from October to April, three or four a month. Every other meeting was open with a roll call, responses made on such topics, as current events, great inventors, cathedrals of France, noted French artists, and quotations from Shakespeare. The alternate meetings opened with a "Question Box." One wonders what that was.

Each meeting contained a topic on France in general; for example Regency of the Duke of Orleans, John Law's Financial System, Louis XV, Fall of the Bastille, and the Reign of Terror, followed by three or four short sketches of French persons: Corneille, Watteau, Wolfe, Mme. de Stael, Marat, and sometimes readings from literature like "The tale of Two cities," Carlyle's French Revolution, Vanity Fair, Victor Hugo.

Such groups are not uncommon today though many are known as courses which last for a specified number of meetings. Whitehall has an interesting one associated with the Isaac C. Griswold Library. Its president, Mrs. Ethel Farnham, has instituted periodical meetings in which two book reviews are given, contrasting a woman of earlier times with one of the present day. Mrs. Farnham ends each meeting with suggested good readings from the library resources.

The Whitehall Times May 21, 1987

M. W. A. and Spanish American War Vets – 1914-15 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Organizations not now in existence flourished. The Modern Woodmen of America was to have its annual Social Dinner.

On May 4, the Admiral P. Potter Camp No. 90 Spanish War veterans were planning a May 29 annual Ball.

The Whitehall Times
July 9, 1987

Sons of Italy – 1914-15
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A new Italian Lodge was organized Sunday 28 March 1915 in W. A. Siraco's Hall, a local order of the Sons of Italy, to be known as Alpine di Savoia Lodge No. 328. Several officers of the State Grand Lodge were present. Officers chosen were N. A. Siraco, Charles Liquore, Gaetane Ambrosine, N. Bathglieri, Vincezo Reartelotte, Vincenzo Catone, Napoleon Spadore Giuseppe Grazine, Francisco Leonbruno, Antonio Fortine, Gluiseppe Natale, Giovanne Scaecia, Vincenzo Epifania.

The Whitehall Times
July 30, 1987

Whitehall Kennel Club - 1915
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Dog Show - A Whitehall Kennel Club had been organized by 10 November 1915. The president was Thomas Kissane, the well-known owner of Caton Kennels on Saunders Street. Here he raised celebrated Airedales, famous for their intelligence the world over. Thus we have the name Canton Hill for the first part of Saunders, the other half being Tug Hill. The treasurer was Mrs. W. D. Harrington, wife of the merchant. She had several full-blooded toy spaniels. These two members were planning for a dog show in January.

The kennel, though small was still in existence in the late 1920's on Saunders Street (but was moved, I believe, to the Blue Goose area).

The Whitehall Times
December 2, 1982

Whitehall Auto Clubs - 1920
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Early Automobile Clubs

How many remember the first time he saw an automobile? Was it the doctor's that chugged along, making his calls faster (if the car didn't break down)? Or was it when the horse reared in acute fright at the coming monster? Or was it the long streaming scarf that followed behind the hat tied under the chin surmounted with

goggles? My memory was of the squeaking hens that fluttered frantically across the road.

This article on a meeting of automobilists sparked the memories. We have similar meetings today in the groups of motorcyclists or caravanists. There was such a meeting May 14, 1920, in Whitehall. About 350 autoists of the Glens Falls and Whitehall Automobile Club and the Granville club convened for a banquet at the Whitehall Armory. The immediate purpose seemed to be that there would be a more active and enthusiastic spirit of cooperation between Whitehall and Glens Falls to promote the interest of the two communities and in turn all of northern New York.

The pilot car of Glens Falls, decorated with banners and pennants, started from that city at 6:30 p.m.; followed by the caravan. In earlier days visitors to Whitehall of such groups were met at the outskirts and escorted to their destination. This time it was the armory. Fred Doren and Dr. Horton were the hosts for a turkey and trout dinner in the basement trimmed with flowers and evergreen favors. The meal was served by the young ladies and matrons of the Baptist Social Circle.

Remarks were made by the officials of the auto clubs and hosts, followed by an hour's oration by Rev. D. Judkins of Glens Falls on "The Effect of the American Spirit in the Next Phase of Civilization." Practical points discussed were the proposed state road between Ticonderoga and Whitehall. Senator Mortimer Ferris of Ticonderoga, 25 miles from Whitehall, had to travel 90 miles to reach the meeting as he had to go via Schroon Lake and Glens Falls to reach the banquet. Such a road was thought to open up relations from the south and Essex County. Herbert W. Baker, secretary of the New York State Auto Association, stressed road conditions and the necessity of laws for the "safety of life and limb." He deplored the law that allowed 18-year olds to operate a car whether blind, crippled or physically unfit. In 1919, he stated that 1,287 people had been killed. Of 600,000 licensed autoists in New York State only ten per cent knew the rules of the road. He urged a resolution to legislators to enact a licensing law based on an examination.

Captain Frank Toby, Troop G, New York State Constabulary, reported that the intent of state troopers was not to make war on automobilists but to see that they complied with the law and urged that examples be made of the violators. Work was being done to curb motorcyclists from speeding.

The old adage, "There's nothing new under the sun" seems to be proved for these are the same topics discussed today — more and better roads, youth on the road, and laws for safety of life and limb.

The next year the Whitehall Auto Club wrote Assemblyman Herbert Bartholomew to know his position on a bill that would require auto owners to purchase a \$10,000 bond. This bill Senator Ferris opposed.

The Whitehall Times
September 26, 1985

Bits and Pieces in 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Good Fellows Club of 1921 had subscribed substantially to a fund for the poor people to help make Christmas brighter and happier.

Officers of Bezek Sanatorium No. 156 elected, in January, High Priest M. D. Marshall; Grand Byaster James M. Havens; Registrar D. A. Rodd; and Banker A. L. Townsend.

The Ladies of the Orient held a social 20 January All Odd Fellows, Rebeccahs, and friends were invited.

Kahchaquahua Club had a party 16 January in Gray's Hall.

The Whitehall Times
October 31, 1985

Some Bits and Pieces of Whitehall in 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The first anniversary of Order of Eastern Star was held 14 March. There was a musical program and dinner. Mrs. D.A. Forbush, Worthy Matron, received a costly string of pearls; Mrs. Horton, a Star pin and Dr. Ernest Horton, Worthy Patron, a Masonic pin.

The Whitehall Times
November 28, 1985

Some Bits and Pieces of Whitehall in 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Rural Charity Club activities sometimes made the newspapers for their social activities. The luncheons were held in the homes of the members with friends assisting the hostess in refreshments. The June luncheon was held in the home of Mrs. Charles Adams. It was made special by a birthday gift of a watch to Mrs. Adams so she could "tell time" when she went West to visit her brothers Daniel and James McFarren.

The Champlain Council of C.W.B.L. (who knows these lettered twenty year installation and banquet was held 8 June in Woodman's Hall location?) with the luncheon at the Ridgeway (Elks). The president was Mrs. George Noyes.

The Whitehall Times
December 12, 1985

Some Bits and Pieces of Whitehall in 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Whitehall Court No. 84 Order of the Amaranth received its charter 20 July. There were 150 members present including forty grand officers from other chapters.

The Whitehall Times
December 24, 1985

Some Bits and Pieces of Whitehall in 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

This month seemed to be election time for many organizations not in existence now. The Royal Neighbors of America on 18 December chose Mrs. Eva Bartholomew, oracle. The Bezek Sanctorum No. 138 BOH chose David A. Rodd Hyastytie.

A new church brotherhood to promote Christian fellowship was organized at the Presbyterian Church at a dinner served by Mrs. David Benjamin. The president chosen was James T. Shirley.

The Whitehall Times
January 30, 1986

Bits and Pieces in 1932
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Foresters Court No. 4434 was visited by Robert L. Kinner of Gouverneur, Superior, and other officials who gave an illustrated lecture and musical program at the Maccabees Hall.

The Whitehall Times
February 6, 1986

Some Bits and Pieces of Whitehall in 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Court McLoughlin did quite a bit of charitable work. On 21 October they brought a Canadian band to the Whitehall Armory to raise funds. This was possible for a small town because the band was booked for appearances in Glens Falls and Rutland and this could be fitted into their schedule.

The 25th anniversary of the Knights of Columbus was being planned. A smoker, banquet, and ball were planned. The smoker was planned for Saturday night 3 November. On Sunday a benediction and sermon would be held at Our Lady of Angles at 5 o'clock followed by a turkey banquet at Griswold Hall at six thirty provided by the Catholic Daughters. On Monday there would be a concert from eight to nine with the Paul Whiteman Orchestra at the Armory. It would have nine pieces. The decorations of the Armory would be elaborate. This would be followed by dancing until two. The supper was to be served by the ladies of the Rosary Society. This supper had been changed from the usual January date.

Whitehall Lodge No. 5, I.O.O.F. was furnishing a room at the new Odd Fellows home in Ithaca. It was to be called the Whitehall Room and be at the disposal of the aged and indigent members of the Lodge.

The Rebeccas were strong in Whitehall. Mrs. May Barker was district deputy of Washington County. This month she took a degree team to Greenwich and went on to Salem for installations.

The Whitehall Times
February 13, 1986

Some Bits and Pieces of Whitehall in 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Camp Fire Girls hiked to Comstock, Saturday, 14 October morning. They enjoyed a field lunch and visited Great Meadow Prison. They returned home by train. Their chaperone was Miss Eleanor Hall.

The Whitehall Times
February 27, 1986

Some Bits and Pieces of Whitehall in 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Kahechoquahaua Club held its meeting at the home of Mrs. H. G. Hays. The study of Queen Victoria ended. Old English songs were rendered.

The Whitehall Times
March 6, 1986

Some Bits and Pieces of Whitehall in 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Trusela Camp Fire girls walked fourteen miles to the farm of John Brown for games and luncheon. This was both ways. They were accompanied by leader Mrs. Williard Tobin.

The Whitehall Times
April 12, 1984

Sons of Italy - 1926
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Sons of Italy society merged with, the Mount Carmel Society.

The Whitehall Times
November 12, 1987

Knights of Pythias, 1930's
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Back in the 1930's an organization called the Knights of Pythias held its meetings in the rooms over Henry Neddo's store (Chases). There was an accompanying woman's order for my landlady to attend its meetings. The 13 April 1872 issue of the Washington County News described the order.

The order was instituted 19 February 1864 at Washington City by J. H. Rathbone. On 11 August 1868 its Supreme Lodge of the World was organized and by 1872 had spread to Europe and Canada with over 130,000 members in its thirty-nine jurisdictions, twenty-six grand lodges, and 21,000 subordinate lodges. Its ruling offices were called Supreme Chancellor and Grand Scribe. The national headquarters was the Supreme Lodge.

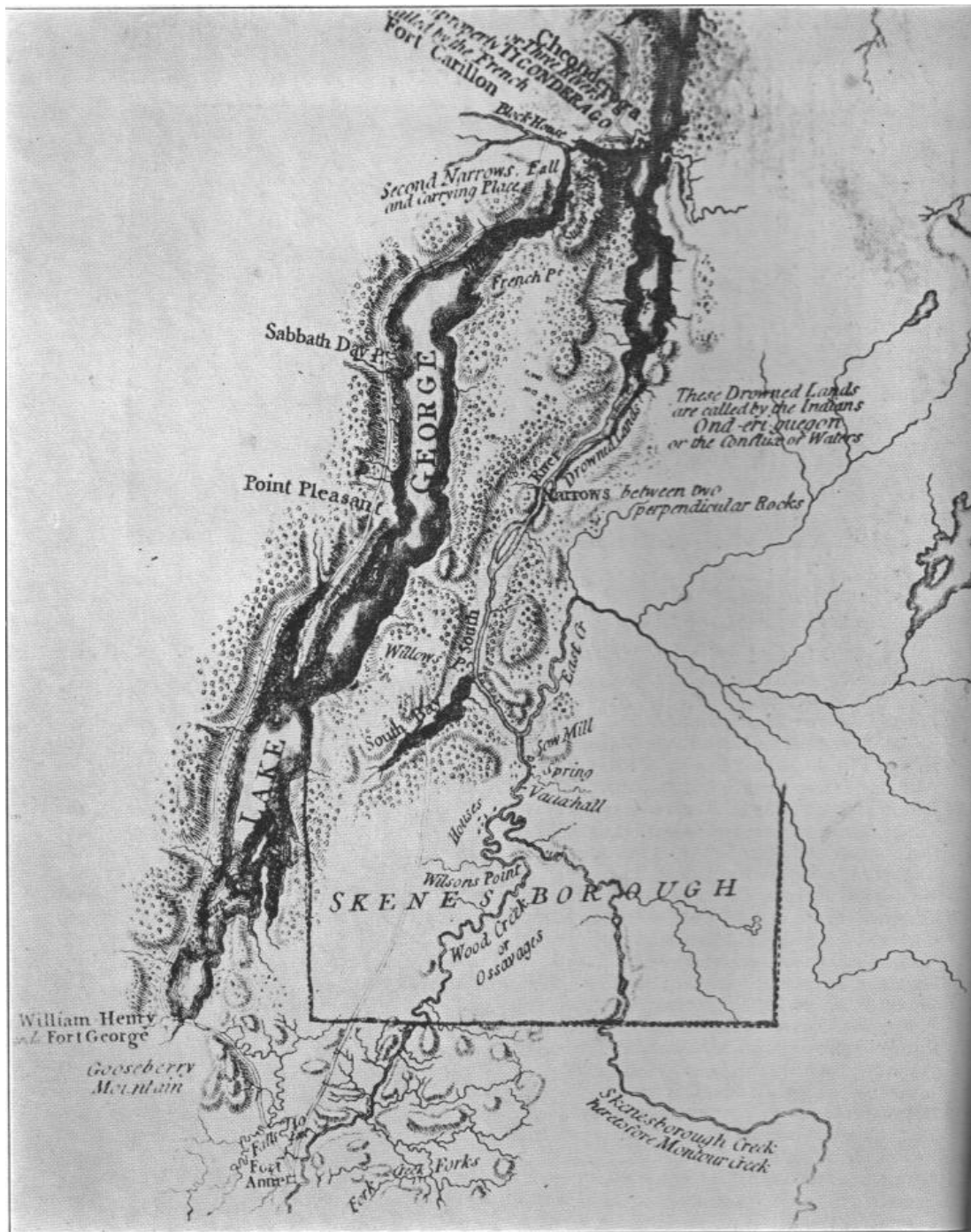
The work of the order was composed of three attractive degrees amid glittering trappings and splendid knightly uniforms.

The aims of the order were of the highest to alleviate the sufferings of mankind, succor the unfortunate, sit by the bedside of the sick, sooth the pillow of the dying; perform the last rites at the grave, offer consolation to the widow and children. It preached no creed of religion but sought justice for all; brotherly love and charity were its pillars.

The Whitehall Lodge of Knights of Pythias was called the North Star Lodge N. 68 and met every Thursday evening. So far I have seen no other mention of this lodge in any papers I have examined. One wonders if its records are in some hidden corner.

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Streets & Roads



LAKE GEORGE AND SKENESBOROUGH. PART OF MAP SURVEYED BY ORDER OF
SIR JEFFREY AMHERST AND PRINTED IN LONDON IN 1762
Appeared in the January, 1928, issue of the N. Y. State His. Assn. Quar. Journal

The Grandville Sentinel

July 9, 1986

The Skene Road

By Roger Taylor & Roy Myer Jr.

(This article is included here because of its relation to Whitehall and this subject. Kb)

Main artery of county travel back in 1800's

We are indebted to the late Truman Temple for bringing to our attention the story of this historic road. The Skene Road was a thirty mile stretch of road which was built by Major Philip Skene in 1767 and connected Whitehall with Salem.

This was the earliest road in Washington County and served as a main artery of travel for many years.

Prior to the building of Skene Road, Skene had a sloop on Lake Champlain and went to Canada for supplies. Later on Skene had a desire to open up trade with the thriving settlements to the South.

The Skene Road was made of logs and was known in the parlance of the times as a corduroy road.

This rather formidable task was accomplished with the help of Skene's Negro slaves some ex-soldiers and some of the early settlers of Whitehall.

We have a description of the beginning of the Skene Road from a book in the Whitehall library. "The first road built in Skenesborough started at Skene's house and Skene Street covers the same ground covered by that road. -

It extended from Skenesborough to Salem and was about 200 to 500 ft. east of the present road it forded East creek at the foot of the hill east of Gordon Greenough's farm.

It followed the turnpike road to West Granville and subsequently passed through Slyboro on the way to South Granville. It then passed through the Hillsdale and Taylor Hill areas of South Granville following the course of the Honey Hill road to where it intersects 149. It then followed the Searles Road and the Liebig Road to the North Hebron line.

From Truman Temple's Memoir we have a description of the Skene Road as it approached North Hebron. "It comes into North Hebron from the north and curves around the base of the huge hogback known as Lysander's hill and enters the tiny hamlet of North Hebron and then turns south."

The Skene Road then passed south a little west of Chamberlain Mills taking almost a direct south line to this point. It crossed Black Creek near the former residence of Sylvester Spoor now owned by Arch Craig, and is said to have passed exactly over the site of his house. Rock bottom on the creek at that point made a favorable place for crossing. From this place, it passed in a southwesterly course through the Munson neighborhood and entered the town of Salem.

There is only one mention of the Skene Road in the Granville

Town Records: On page 75, there is a survey of a town road which has been long abandoned. This road is described as beginning near the old Skenesborough Road and running south from Mr. Smith's maple stand. This short piece of road ran north and south just south of the state road that goes from Hicks to the Hartford line. This survey gives us proof that the Skene Road passed through Slyboro on the way to South Granville.

There is a story in Johnson's History of Washington County that may have some connection with the Skene Road.

At the bridge in Guildler's Hollow a loyalist was shot while driving cattle to the British. Nelson VanGuilder states that the man killed was John VanGuilder probably a cousin of the pioneer Stephen and that he was said to be the only Guildler siding with England in that struggle.

The Skene Road only appears on one map, a 1779 British map which can be found in the Holden room of the Crandall Library in Glens Falls. These old maps are not noted for their accuracy but it shows in a general way the course of the Skene Road as it extends southerly from Skenesborough (Whitehall) to New Perth (Salem).

The Whitehall Times **October 12, 1978**

August 15, 1800
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Then surveyed a Road from East Bay opposite Samuel Jones farm in Westhaven to the main Road from East Bay, Christie's Landing to Seth Warner's farm as follows:

Beginning on the Bank of the Bay at a hemlock opposite S. Jones farm from thence running South Eighty Degrees west eighteen Rods; from thence running South Eighty Degrees west seventeen Rods to a pine tree from thence running South thirty-five Degrees West Eighty two rods, from thence South thirty five degrees west twenty nine Rods; from thence South twenty Degrees East fifty one Rods; from thence South thirty-five Degrees East Eighty Rods; from thence South twenty Degrees west three hundred and eight Rods; from thence South twenty Degrees East twenty four Rods which brings the other main Road by a spring that Abel Foster has conveyed water from in Logs which is in length one mile and three fourths of a mile and thirty one Rods.

Surveyed by Mr. Israel Warner. Laid out by Lewis Hinman, Squire Bartholomew and Thomas McFarren; Commissioners of Highways. Can you figure where this road lay?

The Fence Viewers of 7 April 1861 had these directions to help them:

Voted that each of their barnyards shall be considered a lawful pound.

Voted that the waters of East Bay shall be considered a lawful fence from the Fiddler's Elbow up said Bay to the East Line of the town.

Voted that Joseph Clemmons and Henry Francisco be exempted from highway taxes.

On 5 April 1803 three other pounds were added: One on Wood Creek, one on East Creek and one in Bartholomew Town.

The general location of these pounds can be judged by the men who voted to build them: Bartholomew Town, Isaac Harlow, Squire Bartholomew, Enoch Wright; East Creek, Thomas Lyons, David Richardson, Thomas Griffith; Wood Creek, William Johnson, George Ackley, Anthony Kinner.

Also voted that the banks of Wood Creek, East Creek and East Bay be considered as lawful fences.

The Whitehall Independent **May 1, 1985**

Whitehall's Streets in 1860 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

The great fire of 1860 that raged from the north to Division Street destroyed the records of the Town and of the Village. The first act of the Village Trustees, after the fire, was to buy a record book. Shortly after that they hired Joseph L. Harris to survey the streets of the Village for a correct map.

Mr. Harris put his findings in a record book, a copy of which the Research Library has, presented from the Estate of Henry Neddo.

The first entry in the book is a list of streets on the west side of Wood Creek. They are listed here for their nomenclature and spelling: 1. Canal Street, 2. Buel Street, 3. Bellamy Street, 4. Clinton Street, 5. High Street, 6. Division Street, 7. Church Street, 8. Saunders Street, 9. West Street, 10. Chapin's Avenue, 11. Blount Avenue, 12. South Bay Street, 13. Gilmour Street, 14. Queen Street, 15. Boardman Street, 16. Sixth Street, 17. Smith Street, 18. Pardoe Street, 19. Centre Street.

The second item that Mr. Harris entered was Memoirs of the survey of 1850 made by him for the Incorporated Board of the Village. This took in roughly the boundaries of the Incorporation: on the north from mid channel of the Lake along the right bank of the Poultney River to the south end of McCotter's Bridge. Along that it went south by Whitford's lot to the bank of Wood Creek and south to the waste weir. Then it turned west across Adams Home Farm (his house was the Revolutionary Tavern on the site of the Grand Union) and fifty acre lot to the shore of South Bay. Then it turned north along the east shore of South Bay until it reached the center of navigable channel of Lake Champlain. This was the village of Whitehall at that time.

To help him in his survey of the streets Mr. Harris had, fortunately, a survey of Canal Road, later called Canal Street made by Mr. Travis in 1839; a survey of a portion of the Whitehall and Granville Turnpike, later known as Williams Street; a survey made by Mr., Warner of Tefft's Island of 1843; a survey bill of Poultney Street; and field notes of a survey of Fair Haven road made by Mr. Kellogg in 1821. These surveys of Mr. Harris's are subject to variations in their readings.

The new map was made to the scale of twelve chains to the inch (*One chain is 66 feet. kb*). He studied the variations of the needle and found that it had moved 57 minutes or nearly one degree since 1850. In his study of this variation he discovered that from 1741 the needle had moved east at an average of 3 minutes per annum until 1800 when it ceased to move until 1806. Then it moved westward until 1808. It had moved west at an average 3 minutes per annum until 1860. In 1861 it was still moving west.

The Whitehall Independent

May 8, 1985

Whitehall's Streets in 1860

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Joseph L. Harris surveyed the Village as it was in 1860-1862. He located the bounds of the Village, its streets, and highways declared as open. Then he copied, arranged, and reported his findings to the Board.

Mr. Harris had ten years before, 1850, surveyed the Village and evidently had kept a copy so that he had his notes to use, as those of the Village had been destroyed in the fire of 1860. He also had the 1843 inventory of Israel Warner, who was a surveyor also.

These are the streets on the east side of Wood Creek that his survey showed on the map of 28 April 1862 and sworn to by A. J. Long, Justice of the Peace:

Williams Street, Doig Street, Tafts Island Street, American Alley, Cliff Street, Mountain Street, Wilson Alley, Skene Street, Wheeler Avenue, Poultney Street, Plank Road, Lower Bridge.

In making the survey, Mr. Harris found that citizens had encroached upon the highways and that the Village had encroached on private property. Before he finished the project, all persons had been recompensed for the land taken from them.

A starting point is necessary in surveying and in earlier times these points were objects that could easily disappear in time. These are some examples:

Wheeler Avenue: Close to the wall of Judge Wheeler's front courtyard, an ancient mark in a large elm tree that stood there.

American Alley: Beginning at the NE corner of the main building of the old American Hotel (later the Phoenix Hotel).

Webster Street: Beginning at a point in the north side of Queen Street, 9.03 from the SE corner of Brett's picket fence.

Centre Street: Beginning at the SE corner of Parks front yard fence on the north side of High Street.

Centre Street: Beginning at a point in the west line of Canal Street SE from the corner of Ezra Smith's stone store.

Bellamy Street: Beginning at SE corner of the building known as Dill's Lake House.

Plank Road: Beginning at SW corner of the front yard of George Adams' dwelling house.

Wilson Alley: Beginning at SW corner of buildings standing on the east side of Williams Street at a right angle opposite to a point on the west side of Williams Street which is distant from the NE corner of the courtyard fence of the old Yellow Parker House.

Using amateur reading I shall try to locate these streets approximately as they lay in the Village.

The Whitehall Times
October 10, 1985

Whitehall to Ticonderoga - 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

During February 1922 the road to Ticonderoga was a subject of conversation; so much so that the State felt compelled to give a history of this highway program. It was reported by Legislator Mortimer Y. Ferris. The program was started in 1898 with the first bond issue of \$30,000,000 raised in 1906. Two years later the highway section from Whitehall to Ticonderoga was established, with a second bond issue coming in 1912. That year the South Bay Bridge was constructed. The next year, 1913, a state highway in the village was constructed of 1.32 miles and in 1915 the highway was finished to South Bay. Four years later 3.6 miles north from the bridge was awarded by the bond issue was exhausted. In 1921 the Hewitt Bill provided money for an extension from Putnam to Ticonderoga. This obligated the state to complete the road from Whitehall to Ticonderoga. This road was completed entirely from separate funds county and state funds.

The Whitehall Times
October 28, 1970

Streets & Highway Names
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Did you ever wonder how our streets and highways were named? And what happened to cause a street name to be changed? There must be interesting stories about people that would lead to naming a roadway for them.

On a town map of 1853 Williams Street is shown a beginning at the Whitehall – Castleton Railroad track to approximately the site of the 1816 store house north of the Old Silk mill. Up to the early 1800's Skene Mountain sloped directly to Wood Creek, a much narrower stream than is the present canal and creek bed. In 1806 the road from Granville, now Williams street, ended in front of the building now housing the Girl Scouts where the foot bridge was located. In April of that year the road was extended from this spot to the end of Skene's old dam, or just south of the old silk mill.

In 1810, the road was built "Around the Mountain" and the while, street now instead of road, became known as Williams Street.

Gen. John Williams of Salem acquired about half the land of Whitehall when the area was taken illegally from Philip Skene by forfeiture. He was an influential doctor, supervisor, legislator, county judge and land owner. He acquired the title of general for his patriotic activities during the Revolution.

In 1806 General Williams presented Whitehall with a plot of land and building material for a church two miles outside the village. However, he died before the church

was built. His son, Colonel Williams, moved the materials into the village and erected a church and manse in front of the Williams Street Cemetery. The son obtained his title when he commanded the Washington County Regiment of Cavalry. One wonders what happened to the memorial tablet he placed in this church in honor of his father, for whom Williams Street was evidently named.

The Whitehall Independent **May 15, 1985**

Canal Street **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Canal Street on the west side of the harbor was still called Canal Road in 1839. In this year it was surveyed by Mr. Hastings when Mr. Travis was president of the Village.

Mr. Joseph L. Harris used two surveys, 1839 and 1850, when he made a new survey after the fire of 1860 so that the Board of Incorporation would have an original map and field notes. In 1839 Mr. Hastings' survey began at Ezra Smith's stone store (northwest corner of Clinton Avenue) and ran south to P. J. H. Myers Store (Barber's Clothing) and on to the corner of C. Jillson's house at Division Street; to the corner of the basement of the Anglo Saxon Hotel (Hall Hotel that stood on the area south of the Key Bank*); then southward to a stake on the northeast corner of Robert Orr's brick house. (He owned the area at Church and Canal Streets on which the Trinity Church was later built.) The next point south was W.W. Cook's house on the south side of South Bay Street (School Street) and then south to the corner of Justin Smith's fence on the northwest corner of Boardman Street where Our Lady of Angels** stands.

In 1850 Mr. Harris extended the survey to the line of Incorporation at the South east corner of Jeremiah Adams' west meadow of the farm that stood at the edge of the Village. (This was the area of Ackley's tavern of Pre-Revolution fame that stood on the lot now occupied by the Grand Union.)

In 1861 the Board of Incorporation directed Surveyor Harris to continue Canal Street north from the Ezra Smith stone store, the starting point in 1839. (In 1861 it belonged to George Hall.) It went north to cross Bellamy Street. From there it crossed properties of men whose names are familiar in Whitehall's early history; Mrs. Dill's Lake House, J. Wheeler's house to E. Davis' office which was on Buel Street. This street ran parallel to Bellamy from the lake west across the marsh to the road that ran north. Later this street became known as Dwight Street.

The 1886 map of Stone and Stewart shows a great many businesses that were not mentioned in the surveys like the McClelland House, W.F. McGee Hotel, the Yule House, and T.T. Vaughan's, and many homes of mid eighteenth century citizens important to Whitehall. Usually only the names of the places were listed for people who subscribed to the publication, map, and history.

**Now Citizens Bank in 2008.*

***Our Lady of Angels Church was razed in March of 2008.*

The Whitehall Independent
January 6, 1988

Canal Street
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Recently I found a series of street scenes of Whitehall. Clarence Holden had named the buildings and added to the history of the businesses of the village. This present picture is of Upper Canal Street, about to be named Main Street. It is dated 1913. The old canal is shown in the foreground. This site, in 1914, became Riverside Park. It was at this time that the brick paving was put down. Sharp eyes may see the bricks in piles along the street, waiting for the cement base to be put in place.

Starting at the right of the picture with the lower building is the building erected in 1890 by Frank Burt and later owned by his son Alonzo. It is a frame building and for many years was a newsroom for papers and many small items with the basement room used as a barber shop. Mr. Burns was the last to sell papers from it, I believe. Changes over the years cost its overhang and the more recent loss of its distinctive window.

Next south is the National Bank of Whitehall building. In 1906 country wide this was the style of bank buildings, a fine heavy stone and brick building with distinctive architectural facade features. Its one story interior is made of fine woods. When the bank was dissolved the Town of Whitehall purchased the building. The interior features were kept and Whitehall thus has a building treasure.

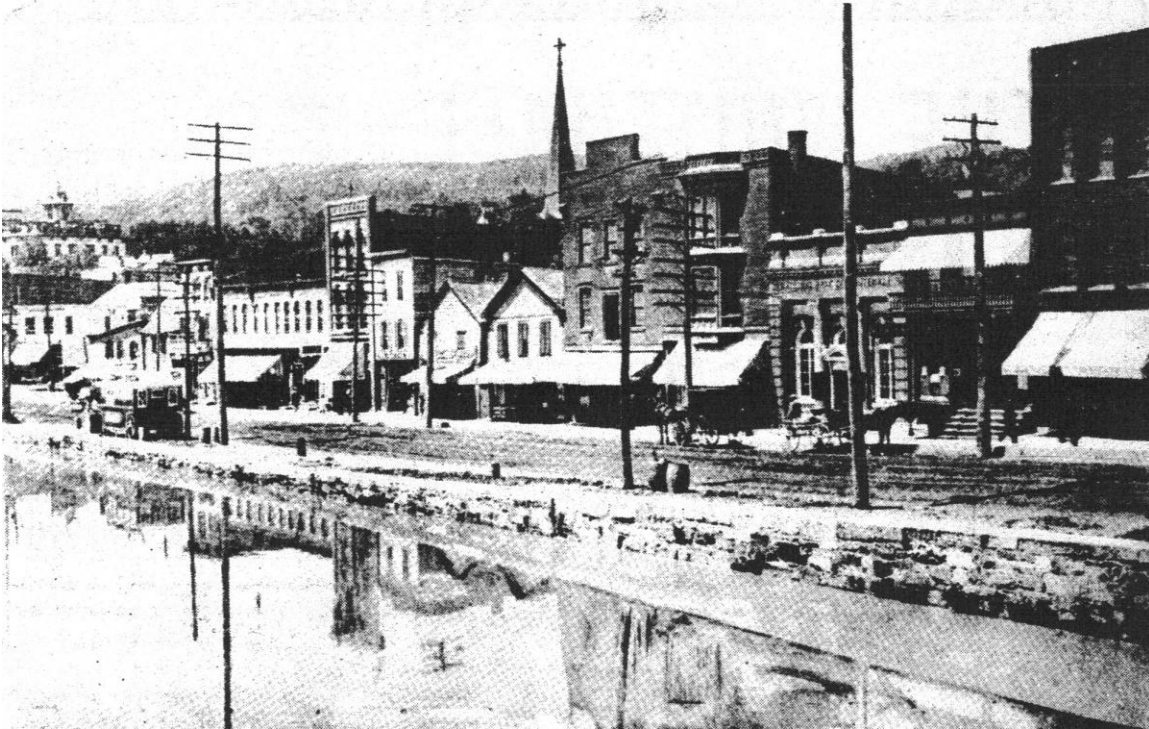
The next building is a higher one distinctive with three bow windows. It was constructed by the Brett family in 1908. The two upper stories were used for the family residence. The lower story was occupied by the John J. Lusk Drug Store.

Next south of the 1908 residence was the store built in 1860 by John Brett as a grocery and feed store. The grain was hoisted to the second story. In the 1970's remnants of this were still in the corners. The building still has its stepped down Dutch front gables with the 1860 date medallion on the facade. When the building was constructed the third story was fitted out for the Masonic Order. The tin ceiling still has the Masonic emblem. Robert Brett, the son of John, inherited the building and the business. After that it was occupied by various veteran organizations until obtained by the American Legion.

This building starts the row of buildings north in Whitehall's Downtown National Register entries. From here south the buildings were razed for the realignment of the D&H Railroad in 1932-1933.

The Whitehall Independent
January 13, 1988

Canal Street
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



This column continues the description of Canal Street of last week. The accompanying picture was taken after 1913 after the Town Building was erected as a bank. Businesses changed over the years. I'll give the names as I know them. Perhaps some readers will recognize and tell about them.

Next to the American Legion were two smaller buildings, called for some unknown reason "little old shacks." Perhaps it was because they were smaller and only two stories high. They were similar in architecture.

The first one next to the Legion belonged to the James Brennan family built by him in the 1860's. At first it was used as a saloon called the White Elephant. After that tenants used it for a variety of stores such as a fruit store and a barber shop. "Mame" Brennan seems to have been the last tenant. For some reason it missed the wrecking ball as it was still standing in the 1950 "s.

The companion building south was razed in 1932-1933 when the railroad alignment took the tracks from the middle of Broadway to their present location. This building belonged to Ferruccio Barberis and his wife, Frances. He ran the Sanitary Meat Market and Grocery Store. She acted as clerk until she succeeded him in business.

The next building was a three story one of John Jones. The family lived in the upper two stories and kept a jewelry store, photographic supplies on the first level. After

the death of John his son, Charles, carried on the business. Afterwards Alexander Sidur kept a jewelry store there until the demolition.

A four story building came next. I have been told a Christmas ribbon factory was on the top floor, and it has been labeled as George's Candy and Ice Cream Place.

The next building is a lower building whose facade has ten windows. Evidently it contained several businesses on the ground floor such as a newsroom, post room and restaurant. In 1913 Bill Cody, a lock supervisor, had his office.

Jesse Walker had a sporting goods store next after this and evidently kept souvenirs of Whitehall for sale as he had many of those in the form of a fancy vase with pictures of Whitehall. He told me one time that when he rented the store he told the owner that if he ever raised the rent, Walker would be out of the store that day. The owner did and that day Mr. Walker was completely moved over to the west side of Broadway now, near Scott's store.

The last building contained Charles Pike's "World Famous J. T. Buel Trolling Baits Invented and Manufactured in Whitehall. "Sold everywhere" according to the sign.

Mr. Holden described other businesses that stood at one time in this group of stores.

The Whitehall Independent January 27, 1988

Addends to Old Canal Street Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A researcher finds that it is embarrassing to say that something is definitely so. In the history of Whitehall's railroad we have thought the first station was west of the building recently destroyed. Now I find that the first tracks went through the street but before going on to what is now the way to the tunnel they swung to the right and went to a spot south of Saunders Street Bridge. Here freight was transferred from the train to canal boats and vice versa. The first station then in Whitehall, 1848-1850, was in the building which shows in last week's picture with the Buel trolling tackle advertising. A pinpoint place for some can be that the station was just east of Kana's Flag Station. The tunnel was constructed in 1850, the tracks then straight north through the tunnel to the Lake Station near the Elbow area.

The Whitehall Independent
May 22, 1985

Streets of Whitehall
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The origin of the names of Whitehall streets seems interesting. The one for Canal Street is not difficult. But what about Buel and Dwight for the same street north of Bellamy Street? The description of that street location is that its eastern end touched on Canal Street and went west from a willow tree. At the southeast corner of Yule's barn and by Henry Day's blacksmith shop, it touched on Dwight's barn. It ran slightly northwest, not quite parallel to Bellamy Street, touching on the corner of J. T. Buel's barn and continued to the east side of Saunders Street as it came down the hill towards South Bay. The reason for the abandonment of this street is not as now known but the names can be guessed at as Buel's and Dwight's property was close to its West and East ends.

Why the name Bellamy Street? Recently a letter from an inquirer about early names in Whitehall suggests it was a family name as his name, descendent of people who went west, is Bellamy. Bellamy Street started at the southeast corner of Dill's Lake House on the west side of Canal Street. It ran westerly to a spike in the ground near the north entrance of the railroad tunnel near the Northwest corner of Reed's Hotel ruins (A new hotel in research). Then it ran up a steep hill alongside a white fence until it reached the east side of, Saunders Street.

Clinton Alley West and East; the west end of this street began at the southeast of Ezra Smith's stone store on Canal Street and ran west past the north end of Centre Street to a white house on Church Street near the railing of the tunnel. Clinton Alley East began on the east side of Canal Street opposite its west continuation and went past the north corner of John C. Park's brick store which stood at the end of the flat iron block by the side of the old canal to end at the west end of the lower bridge.

High Street East and West; this street also ran east and west. The east part began at Canal Street south of Ezra .Smith's stone store and ran west crossing Centre Street to the northwest corner of Boyd's courtyard to end at Church Street. Boyd's property was in the area north of Division Street on the line of the present High Street. High Street West began at the northeast corner of M.K. Myer's iron fence of his courtyard on the west side of Church Street. This was the site of the later Sleight Boarding House that stood north of the Presbyterian Church. It then ran on west to end at West Street. Only a small section of High Street remains.

The Whitehall Independent
May 29, 1985

Streets in Whitehall
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

To continue parallel streets in northern Whitehall, after High Street comes Division Street. What did the street divide? Its east end Harris described as a jog of Canal Street. It began at a point in front of A. H. Griswold's building on Canal Street. This whole section of Canal Street north to Anderson Hall belonged to the Griswold family - George Griswold's red brick building, the Arcade, and the Iron Front. From there Division Street ran west to Church Street (Broadway). From Centre Street, at the northwest end was the first Whitehall Academy. The front fences of all the places encroached on the street. Chapin's brick store on the south east end (later Woodcock and Hotchkiss, now Variety Store) was a foot outside the south line of the street as was the old Red Jones House, at the east end and farther west by several links. One of the points of location of this street was a nail driven in the board platform near the corner of the building known as Prindle's Exchange.

In 1862 the next parallel street was known as Saunders Street. It began on the west side of Church Street at the southeast corner of A. H. Griswold's courtyard (the lot later being the Scott residence and now the Greenough's). It went west past Griswold's barn, across West Street, past Dr. Dan Wright's home to cross Blount Avenue, now known as a street. This section encroached on Griswold's yard in front of his house and barn. The point on the south side of the street at Blount was a walnut tree. The street continued up the hill and curved north to pass the land of Justin A. Smith and reach Bellamy Street. It continued north, reaching A. Johnson's stone wall by a brook, past the point where Buel Street entered it at the east and a bit farther to the end of the corporation of that time. Within this area was Chapin's Avenue, not the Chapin's Alley of present day. This avenue began at West Street and ran west along a high fence to end at the northwest corner of the old Bell School, that red brick building at the corner of present Blount and Lamb. This street is the present line of Lamb Street. The Chapin family were important merchants in the village.

Within this area of streets just described, some streets ran north and south. One was Blount's Avenue. This began at Saunders Street and ran north to the high board fence at the west end of Chapin's Avenue and the northwest corner of the old Bell School. Mr. Blount was a carpenter and builder of Whitehall.

Parallel to Canal Street was West Street, its name quite obvious for the time. This street began at High Street 38 feet from the corner of M. J. Myer's iron fence mentioned in the High Street location. It ran south past Chapin's Avenue, across Saunders Street to the courtyard of Turner's premises at South Bay Street (School Street). West Street was later extended to what we know now.

The Whitehall Independent
June 12, 1985

Streets in Whitehall
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Addendum to Saunders Street: After Saunders Street turned northward; it crossed a brook on its way to end near Buel Street in 1862. This brook is still in existence, coming from Sear's Pond down the hill to cross under the road north on its way to the waters of Lake Champlain. Earlier deeds give the brook's name as Kelly Brook.

Church Street: An early description of this street says that it was a road leading from the Bar south to Fort Ann. Mr. Harris described it in two sections. The name evidently came into existence because of the early churches that were erected along its length. The Presbyterian Church was the first to be re-erected on it from its initial site on Williams Street south of the present Armory. This was in 1819. The second church was the Methodist Episcopal Church, as it was then called, built in 1832 south of the present Methodist parsonage. According to recent research, the first Catholic building was erected in 1835 just north of the tunnel overhead. Three years later, 1838, the Episcopal Church was built at the south east corner of Division Street on the site of the Masonic Temple. This was vacated in 1842 and a second church, to be called Trinity, was erected on the site of Longtin's filling station in 1843. In 1846 the First Baptist Church purchased the first Episcopal Church building at Division Street. Thus, when Harris made his survey in 1862 there were four churches on the street.

The survey of Church Street started with the courtyard of M.J. Myers at High Street, extended south past all the churches to reach a junction with Canal Street at Robert Orr's fence south of present Trinity Church. This point was marked by the stakes at Blossom Allen's line on the west and the railroad office that stood opposite on the east side. The street was fifty feet wide, a new line having been drawn to exclude the encroachments on the east side Mr. Harris then went to the north end of the street and traced it from High Street to pass the end of Clinton Alley and terminate at Bellamy Street.

South Bay Street present School Street, started from Canal Street (Broadway) at the northeast corner of W. Cooke' courtyard west to junction with West Street This was before the Central School was erected. It extended west over the mountain to South Bay, probably as a road at that time, for the two castles on the hill were not yet in existence.

There were two short streets in this area, Pardo (Pardoe) and Webster Streets They were named for people who lived on them. Pardo Street began at Boardman Street at the southeast corner of Charlie Pardo's premises and ran north to Queen Street. This would be that short stretch of West Street between those two. Webster Street began at Queen Street and ran north to Gilmore Street. That would be the south portion of present Lafayette Street. These names were not in use long for this 1866 map does not use them.

The Whitehall Times
May 11, 1972

Saunders Street 1868
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

While the topic is on a part of Saunders Street this material will add to it. Erected about 1840 on land which is approximately where the overpass is now was the first Catholic Church of Whitehall. Its spire can be seen in 1850 pictures to March, 1867, the village trustees decided to open a street from Parke House Bridge through lands of Mrs. Lockwood, Mr. Renois, the Parke House, and the Catholic Church, taking about two rods.

Parke House Bridge was the now Saunders Street bridge, Parke House was one of the names by which the Hall Hotel just south of the present bank was known, and the Renois block was that occupied now by Montgomery store.

The land was bought from these owners, adding more land owned by O. C. Burroughs. The street was not opened until a year later, 1868. At this time the Catholic Church congregation divided, those belonging to the French extraction buying the second Episcopal Church building across the street on land now occupied by Longtin's Service Station; and those belonging to the Irish later building their edifice on the corner of Boardman Street and what was then Canal Street.

The Whitehall Independent
June 26, 1985

Streets in Whitehall
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Gilmore Street

Parallel with South Bay Street ran Gilmore Street from Canal Street at the Bascom Courtyard to its end at Webster or Lafayette. The Bascom house stood at the southwest corner of the two streets. Probably the street was named for the Gilmore family that moved there from the country. One of the Gilmores was a flower girl who greeted Lafayette on his visit to Whitehall. Her portrait is in Skenesborough Museum. Gilmore Street once was very much lower than now. An account of a flood tells of people stepping from a boat on Canal into several feet of water on Gilmore.

Queen Street

Queen Street began at Canal Street at the corner of Brett's picket fence and ran west to a point opposite the cemetery. The small houses on this street have been called cottages. The reason for naming it Queen? Whitehall shied away from naming its streets for Revolutionary times, except for Lafayette Street.

Boardman Street

Boardman Street began at the Southeast corner of Justin A. Smith's land at Canal Street. This was the land of the present Our Lady of Angels. Within the area between Boardman and Queen Street was land of the early Boardman and Smith families who presented the Boardman-Smith Cemetery to the Village. This street ran west across Pardo (West) to end at Smith Street

Sixth Street

Sixth Street began at Canal Street a distance south from the southeast come of Justin Smith's courtyard and ran west to Smith Street. It is now known as Maple Street. Why was the street called Sixth? One explanation given is that it was the sixth street from the north of the village. This would be true if the count started at Saunders Street and counted School, Gilmore, Queen, and Boardman. North of these were High, Clinton Alley, Bellamy and Buel.

Smith Street

Smith Street began at Sixth Street and ran north across Boardman Street to private land at the south side of Boardman Cemetery. These two streets were first surveyed in 1849 for Messrs. Smith and Boardman, private owners. They instructed Mr. Harris, surveyor, to name the streets for them.

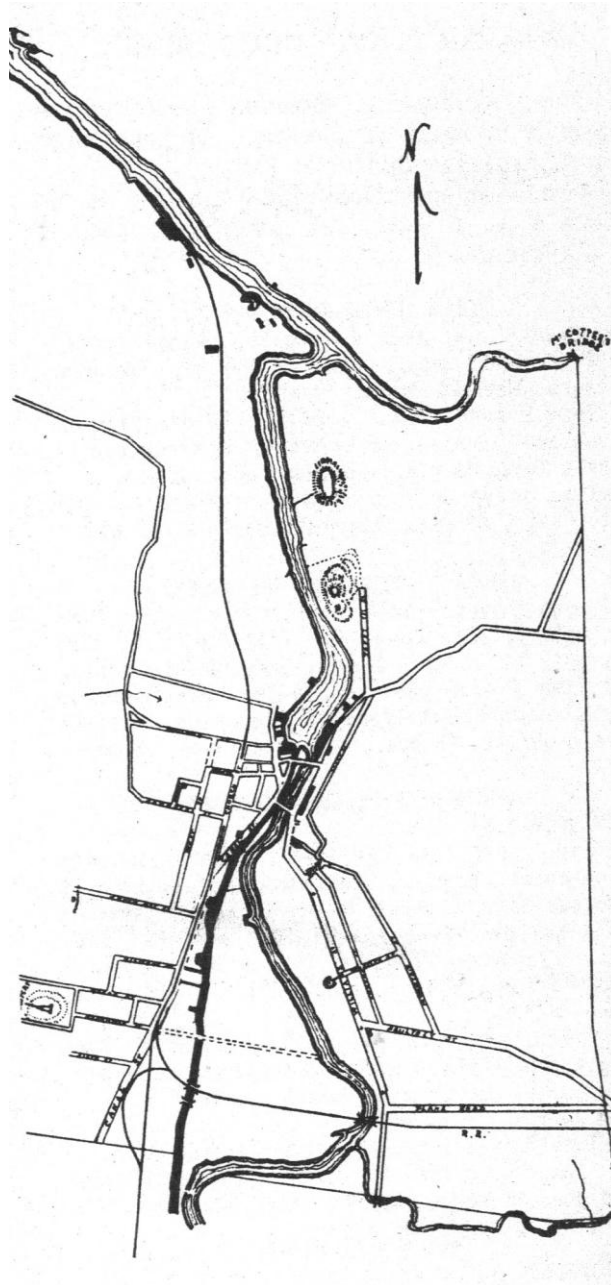
Upper Bridge

In earlier times, the upper bridge across Wood Creek was approximately on the site of the foot bridge. It was a thoroughfare that the parade headed by Lafayette crossed on the way to the dinner in his honor at Wiswell's Tavern. It began on the west side of the canal midway between Division Street and M. J. Myer's stone store (Barber's) in the area called Myers Corners. It crossed the Creek to a brick building known as Williams' Place. General Williams and his son bought much of Skene's forfeited land. The lot in this section was known as the Mill Lot.

This ends the description of the streets on the west side of the Village as surveyed by Mr. Harris in 1862.

The Whitehall Independent
July 10, 1985

The Whitehall Village Map of 1861
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



The Village of Whitehall Corporation at the time of the map that J. L. Harris surveyed after the great fire of 1860 was much smaller than it is now. The map from which this was taken is over a hundred years old and now hangs in Skenesborough Museum. It is on a kind of parchment that does not yellow with age.

The street locations have been described in some detail in former columns. All the streets described are not named on the map. The ones on the west side of the early canal will be catalogued from it.

The street farthest north is unnamed. It ran east to west intersecting Saunders Street that extended to the tavern at South Bay. This street was first Buel and then Dwight Street.

Bellamy Street was parallel to Buel both of which started at early Canal and extended to Saunders Street also. Clinton Alley started at Church Street and ran east across the old canal and Wood Creek to Williams Street. High Street was next parallel and went from Canal across Church (Broadway) to end at West Street.

Saunders Street began at Church Street and curved northward. South Bay (School) began at Canal and ran west to the road that went west to South Bay up the mountain. Gilmore, Queen, Boardman and Sixth (Maple) streets all originated at Canal. Boardman ran west to the cemetery on Smith Street which is not named on the map but ran between Queen and Boardman Streets. Gilmore Street ended at unmarked Webster Street while Queen and Boardman were connected to Pardo Street parallel to Smith.

Going north again, Church Street extended from Bellamy to its junction south with Canal. It crossed High Street which ended at West Street. West started at High and ran south to South Bay. It crossed Chapin Alley that is now Lamb between West Street and Blount.

The map also shows how the railroad left the yards to go east over the old canal and Wood Creek over its own bridges; and north along Canal Street with the tunnel clearly marked. The old canal is shown in black. Lake Champlain is the natural route that was cut off when the canal was dredged through in 1919. It is easy to see why Fiddler's Elbow was a difficult course for lake steamers and tows to be warped around

The next street description will be the ones on the early east side.

The Whitehall Independent

August 7, 1985

East Side Streets

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

There were three streets parallel to Williams Street, or the Turnpike, in 1861. Skene Street began at the north side of Poultney at a vortex of a line from Adams' house on the south side of Poultney and Davis' House on the north side. It ran north to a junction with Wilson Alley to a post on Bennett's porch. There was no McCotter Street at the time.

Mountain Street began at Poultney Street south of the stone basement of a new house of Washington George and a large blaze on an elm tree in front of this building. It ran north to an iron bolt in the ground at the corner of the old Mountain House and a small house on the west side of Mountain. Mr. Wheeler had given some of his land for a part of this new street. It ran north to a new building and there turned west to pass

Wilson Alley and to end past Greenough's house. No wonder it was hard for newer settlers to trace boundaries.

Cliff Street began where Mountain Street ended and perpendicular to it. It was a street laid out at the direction of John Boyd on his land. It was twenty feet wide and ran north for some distance. The map shows it to go over and down the side of Skene Mountain to Williams Street. But how did it go down the side of Skene Mountain?

At the south end of Cliff Street was a continuation of Mountain Street that ran west to join Williams Street. It was a private alley in use by the owner of the American Hotel, later to be known as the Phoenix that stood at the corner on the site of the Elks Club. There had been an earlier Phoenix on the west side of the canal which burned in 1852.

Back in 1843 Israel Warner had surveyed Taft's Island, as it was spelled. It began at the road from Whitehall to West Haven and went north past the 1816 Navy storehouse on the steamboat dock to the north end of the Island. Its northern marker was an iron bolt on Martin's smoke stack to his steam mill on the dock. The chimney of a later mill on this site is shown in early pictures of the harbor. The street was evidently named for the owner of a tract of land now known as Taft's Island.

In 1821 Mr. Kellogg surveyed a road leading from the east side of the basin to Fair Haven. Mr. Harris used this in his surveys of 1850 and 1861. The Board of Corporation allowed Mr. Harris to call this street Doig Street, a family known in Whitehall. It ran generally east toward Fair Haven to the corporation line.

The lower Bridge on Wood Creek and the canal began at the east of the south side of Clinton Alley East and ran east to the west line of Williams Street. This leaves Williams Street, or the turnpike, to be described.

The Whitehall Independent

August 14, 1985

Williams Street

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Williams Street in early deeds was known as The Turnpike. It was one of the earliest transportation routes from the Whitehall Basin toward Pangman Hill. Before 1850, sections of it had been surveyed by earlier men than J. Harris, who made a similar survey, in 1861. Cliff Abel, Captain Israel Warner, and Mr. Earl were other surveyors.

The 1861 survey was made in sections. One began at the northeast corner of Smith's brick building, called Williams Place, which site was near the east end of the old foot bridge, a road bridge then. It went north to the southwest corner of the stone building east of the carpet factory. This took it to the old stone monument where the old north bridge stood. Up to this point the west side of the street was the east side of Wood Creek.

It now passed the old carpet factory and Boyd's Foundry and turned northeast to be in line with the southeast corner of the old stone store to meet the west line of the highway leading to Tefft's Island and so on to the Fair Haven and West Haven road.

The southwest section began at Smith brick building and then went south past the old Jillson house (an old shoe shop which was the site of Marion's Dress Shop) and to the courtyard of the old yellow Parker House on the northeast corner of Wilson Alley. It continued south to Poultney Street at the northwest corner of Adams brick house and the southwest corner of Q. F. Davis dwelling across Poultney Street. It continued past the Williams Street Cemetery to cross the bridge of the original notes of the first turnpike began the road at a hemlock tree standing on the east side of the basin in Whitehall and then went south to the east side of Wood Creek to the northeast corner of Parker's yellow house.

The pictures of the late 18th century Williams residential street show a beautiful area with graceful elm trees including the Wishing Tree, well known to strollers of all ages. It was a path of some of the horse races between friendly men of the town to show off their horses. Fences of wood and iron enclosed the lawns.

Hopefully this beauty will return with the fulfillment of the Urban Cultural Park Plan, along with other areas of the village.

The Whitehall Independent July 31, 1985

Streets on the East Side of Whitehall Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The longest street on the east side of Wood Creek is Williams Street. In all early deeds it is referred to as a turnpike, the former name applied to roads. It led from the east side of the harbor south to continue out of the present village up Pangman's Hill.

The street at the south of the Village was called Plank Road. It ran east from Williams Street from the dwelling of George Adams. It followed approximately the route of present Elizabeth Street north of the railroad line to Rutland. It ran straight to join Poultney Street as it left the Village limits. There was no Champlain Avenue or Montcalm Avenue then.

The next street north was Poultney. The entrance to it from Williams Street in 1861 was farther north than it is now. Today it is on a line with Boardman Street. Earlier it would have been on a line with Queen Street if that street were extended across the canal. It crossed the end of Skene and Mountain streets on its way toward Poultney, Vermont. There was no Potter Street or Norton Road then.

The next parallel street north was Wheeler's Avenue. The possessives were still used on the 1866 map. This was the scene of Judge Wheeler's property south of which was the old military training ground and on which street was School 15. The street started from a mark on a large elm tree standing on the west side of Williams Street indicated by an iron spike driven into the tree to its head. It went east to Mountain Street where it ended by a cross mark on the front boards of Penfield's house. Along the route the fences of several house lots encroached upon it. An interesting mark at the time (1861) was the most ancient mark on a large elm tree that stood close to the wall of Judge Wheeler's front courtyard.

Wilson Alley ran from Williams Street past the end of Skene Street to end at Mountain. It began at the northwest corner of a house on the east side of Williams Street. Along this street on the north side the stoop of Bennett's house was entirely an encroachment and on the south side Greenough's fence was inside the line of both Wilson Alley and Mountain Street. It must have been much easier to travel between fences with horse and buggy than with autos now.

The Whitehall Times
November 23, 1978

Village Records of the 1860's (1869)
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

4 February 1869 George Yule was directed to raise a portion of Bellamy Street between the east line of Mrs. Neddo's dwelling and the foot of Bellamy Street with stone and dirt two feet in height and 16 feet wide for \$200. On 27 March he was paid for the work.

On 26 July 1869 the minutes said a road four rods wide would be opened from Bellamy Street to Buell's Street parallel to the Rensselaer and Saratoga Railroad. The west side of the road to run within two rods of the center of the main track. Buell Street (also known as Dwight Street), ran west from the railroad track parallel to Bellamy. Nothing else was said in the minutes and the map of 1875 does not show the proposed road.

The Whitehall Independent
August 3, 1972

1866 v 1916 Whitehall Maps
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Recently the Historical society and Skenesborough Museum received valuable maps of Whitehall. One is the 1866 topographical atlas of Washington County donated by Mrs. Helen Bartholomew; the other is the 1916 Sanford map of Whitehall given by Ronald Burns. Since these are 50 years apart in date, the comparison of street names makes an interesting study.

The basic street on the west side of the village started from the north end and ran through the business section by the canal, along the railroad track south to join Route 4. In 1866 this whole distance was called Canal Street. By 1916 it had been divided into three sections by name; north of Bellamy Street it was Broad Street; from Bellamy to High it was North Main; and the rest of the way it was South Main.

Parallel to this street west was Church street reaching from north of Bellamy to midway between Saunders and School streets to where Canal or South Main bent to the east in both 1866 and 1916.

Center Street between Church and Canal (Main) from 1866 has existed from High to Division streets.

West of Church Street was West Street. In 1866 this ran from Bellamy to Gilmore and from Queen Street to Boardman Street. By 1916 it started at High Street and was cut through to Boardman.

Lafayette Street ran from South Bay Street to Queen in 1866; as it now runs from School Street (South Bay) to Queen.

Smith Street has remained the same from Queen to Sixth (Maple),

Two other streets were added by 1916 that didn't exist in 1866. Blinn Street started at Second Avenue and ran a ways south and Vaughn started at First Avenue and ran to Fifth Avenue.

Dwight Street, north of Bellamy Street from Canal to the northern section of Saunders as it went north had ceased to exist in 1916.

Bellamy Street in both years cut from Canal to Saunders. In 1866 Clinton Avenue began at Williams street but by 1916 -seems to start at North Main but with a jog to the bridge over the dam.

High Street existed from Canal (Main) to West Street both years as did Division Street from Canal to Church (now Broadway).

Saunders Street in 1866 began at Church Street and curved to the north and was the main highway to the north in 1866 but by 1916 it had been cut through to Williams Street using the bridge as an extension.

Present School Street was called South Bay in 1866 and ran west from Canal as it is now.

Gilmore and Queen were as they run now while Boardman in 1866 extended east to the Champlain Canal. Sixth Street is also the same but we call it Maple.

By 1916 the village had grown and new streets appear on the map, Chaplin Alley between South Main street and West; Rock avenue off Saunders; Pike street south from Saunders and Williamson Avenue off West between Saunders and School.

East Boardman Street ran from South Main east to Williams Street, entering that street north of Poultney.

Cook Street ran to the east from South Main near First Avenue. Going generally west from South Main were Kirtland, Adams, First Avenue, Second Avenue and Fifth Avenue. Third and Fourth avenues ran only to Blinn Street.

The Whitehall Independent

August 10, 1972

1866 v 1916 Whitehall Maps

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The main street on the east side of Wood Creek was Williams Street. In 1866 it had no other name as it ran from Burt Hill to the Granville Road but in 1916 it was listed as North and South and at its northern end from the junction of Elbow and North Williams it was named Jermain.

In 1866 Cliff Street extended from what is now North Mountain Street over Skene Mountain and down to meet Williams Street. By 1916 it evidently didn't go down the north side of the mountain.

Elbow Street in both years went north from the junction of Cliff and Williams Street.

Mountain Street started at Williams Street and curved around to Poultney in 1866 but in 1916 from Williams Street to Cliff it was known as American Alley.

Skene Street extended from Wilson Alley to Poultney in both years.

In both years these streets were the same: Wilson Alley connected Skene and Williams; McCotter connected Williams and Mountain; Wheeler connected Williams and Mountain. Poultney ran east from Williams. Elizabeth in 1866 was shown as extending east but in 1916 it was shown just from Williams to Davis Street.

By 1916 new streets had been added. Potter Street was cut through from Wheeler to Poultney; Davis started from just west of where Mountain entered Poultney and extended to Elizabeth Street; Pauline began just east of where Mountain entered Poultney and extended to Elizabeth.

The naming of Whitehall's Streets will be an interesting research. Many citizens remember recent changes in names and the people after whom some of them were named.

XXXXXXX

Another issue of the time, ACROPOLIS published by the Class of 1922, Whitehall High school, is at hand. Volume 2, No. 2 came out on Oct. 29, 1921. It is larger than the first issues, on regular newsprint and contains regular advertisements from merchants.

The masthead includes this: We need a new school building. A seat for every child. An editorial listed the reasons for a new school: Eighteen pupils were leaving this year while 80 would enter just the high school alone; seating is a problem; class rooms are too small and teachers have to roam around to find a room in which to hold a class; there is no gymnasium as that had to be taken for homemaking classes; manual training is required next year and there is no room for this department; library books are kept in cupboards and it is very easy for anyone to help himself.

Front page articles include a letter giving the report of the committee which listed the faults of the school and an item that announces the election of Architects Fuller and Robinson of Troy to design and construct the building.

The Whitehall Times
September 24, 1978

The Washington County News 1871
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

M.O. Blinn had a farm in the southern part of the village as reported in a former column. He turned it into building lots. Another issue of the Washington County News, Mr. Vaughn entered the building lot project with Mr. Blinn and so Whitehall has a Vaughn Street as well as a Blinn Street.

The Whitehall Times
November 23, 1978

The Washington County News 1871
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The edge of the Village in 1871 south of Adams Street in the area of Vaughn and Blin Streets, M.O. Blin (Blinn) had purchased a large farm in this section. After a time he plowed the area and scraped soil from the hill into the hollow near the northern boundary of the farm. He divided the area into building lots and sold them on easy terms of payment. Editorial comment said the village was rapidly growing southward and within five years these lots would double in value and be the most thickly settled part of the village. Mr. Blin gave land to the village for the streets laid out.

The Whitehall Times
September 24, 1978

The Washington County News 1872
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Concrete walks were laid on Church Street in front of the dwellings of A. H. Griswold and J. F. Clark. These were lauded as something new in this place and recommended for firmness, beauty and durability.

The Whitehall Times
December 3, 1987

A Road and a Street in Whitehall 1872
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Today the roads and streets of Whitehall are taken for granted. A howl is issued over any inconvenience. There was such a grievance in 1872 over the condition of the highway leading to the Brick Church. It was a source of annoyance to those who had to pass over it. According to the paper if it had not been for Whitehall's being an excellent market which paid high prices for products brought in, it would not have been used.

Older citizens remembered this piece of road as a plank road. There was a toll gate just east of Norton Road. The company owning the plank road abandoned it and it was allowed to become in almost impassable condition with only a little patching done by the few inhabitants along the road. The highway tax was not enough to make necessary repairs. The usual, suggested, remedy was made that the town should make an appropriation for the purpose and make the road as safe as possible.

Another spot of annoyance was the village street from the depot to the tunnel. The trains were said to be run through the village in a reckless manner. Accidents were numerous and narrow escapes occurred almost daily. Horses were frightened; wagons were broke; people were annoyed and unconvinced. They had to drive up cross streets to avoid a passing train. A funeral procession passing up Canal Street on its way to Boardman Cemetery was broken by a single engine. A part of the procession had to turn up a cross street while the other part had to turn back to avoid danger. The suggested cure in this case was to ask that the railroad employees take more care in passing through the streets.

The Whitehall Times
June 28, 1973

June 1873
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A new plank road has been placed on the north side of Wheeler Avenue and a new crossing opposite the Wheeler Avenue school house, Mountain has been widened 20 feet, filled and graded, and a wall built in many places. Williams Street has a new walk from James Doren's Furniture Warehouse to the lower bridge. Bellamy Street is in good condition, widened with a new walk one foot wider than the old one and with fences in the dangerous places. Saunders Street is widened and graded. Immense rocks at the junction of Saunders and Bellamy streets have been blasted out so it is safer for the teamsters.

\$225 weekly is being spent on the highways. Citizens are getting their money's worth.

Trustees of the village board authorized G. A. Hall to replace street lamps on the corner of Canal and Bellamy streets and S. T. Cook to negotiate with the Rensselaer and Saratoga Railroad for land to widen Boardman Street east.

The Whitehall Times
August 2, 1873

July 1873
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A new walk 26 rods long and 4 feet wide had been laid on Adams Street and one 25 feet long and 3 feet wide on Cooke Street. McCotter Street was ready for macadamizing

The Whitehall Times
August 30, 1873

August 1873
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

(Streets were evidently on this year's agenda.) On Poultney is laid 35-40 rods of plank walk, three feet wide. Lafayette Street is being graded and Gilmore Street is being filled in. On Centre Street a knoll is being taken away, so as to allow the water to run uninterrupted the entire length of the street. On Williams Street a new fence has been put up in several places, preventing danger to pedestrians.

The Whitehall Times
September 20, 1873

Jones Street
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Did you know that Blount Street was once Jones Street from Walter Jones who owned the land on the lower side of Saunders Street?

The Whitehall Times
September 27, 1973

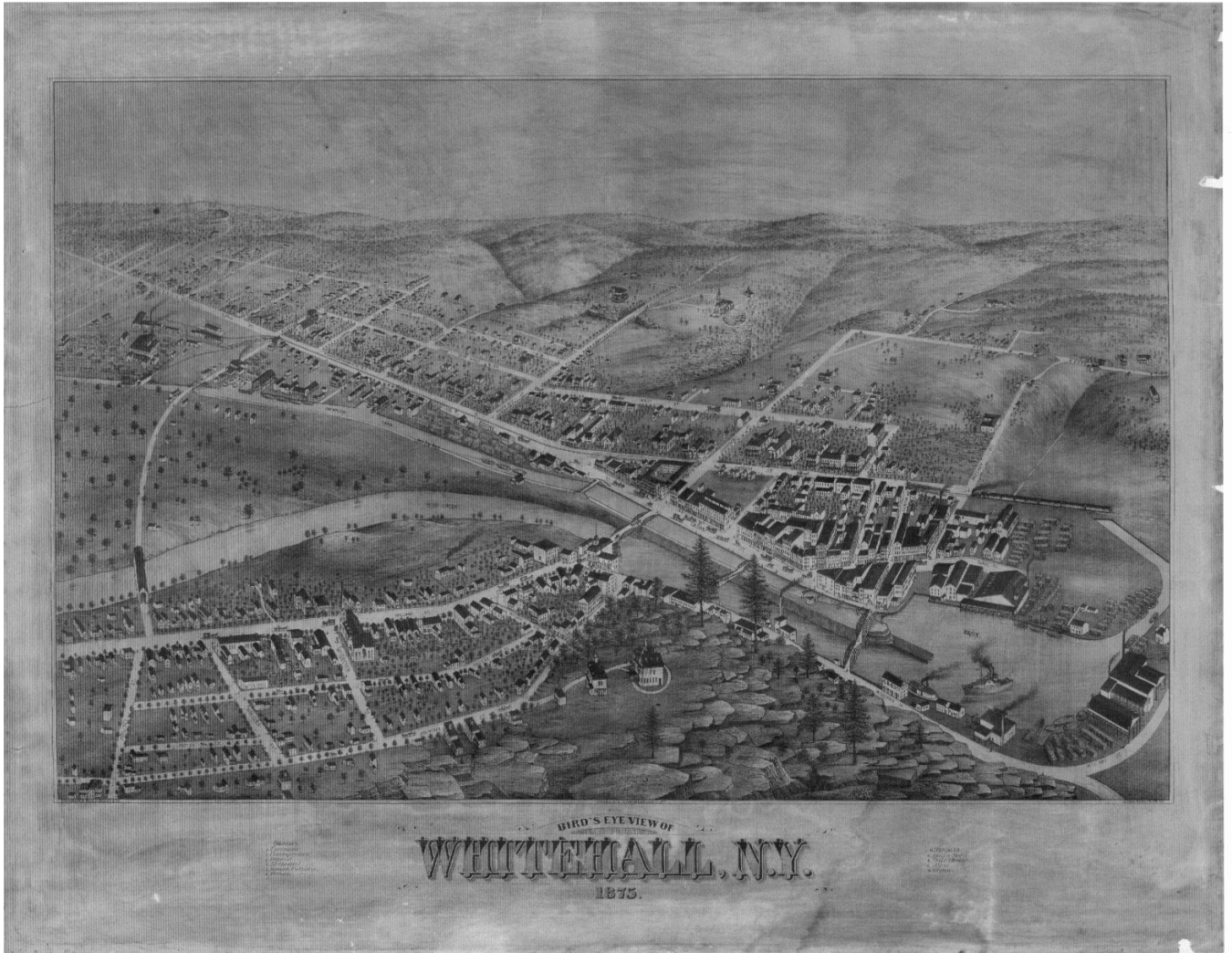
September 1873
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Williams Street was being macadamized from the furniture warehouse and John Chapman to the factory of Wrangham and Irwin. Lafayette Street is graded opposite the residence of D. Benjamin and Gilmore Street is filled in opposite the residence of James Lusk.

The Whitehall Times
July 14, 1988

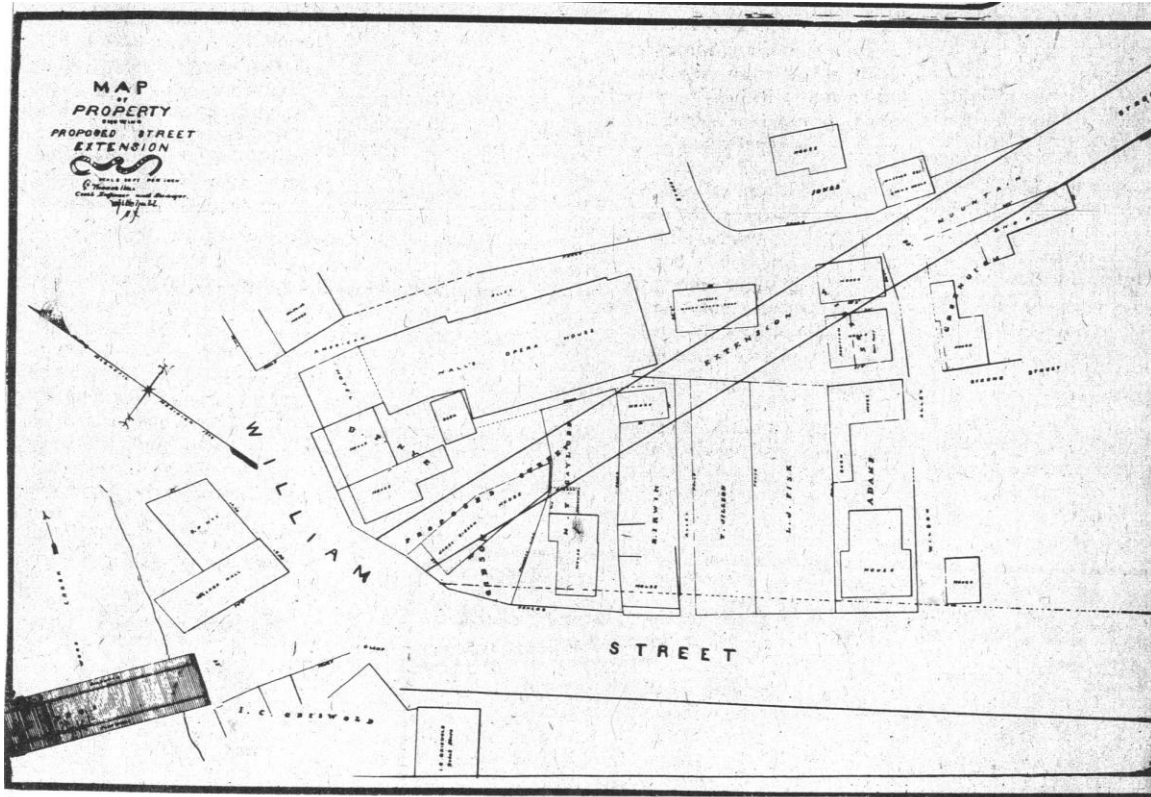
Whitehall Chronicle 1874
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Streets: Boardman Street was macadamized from Canal (Broadway) to the cemetery. On West Street an enormous sewer was constructed, 105 feet in width, five feet in height, and three feet wide. It was covered with flagging from Aaron White's quarry in Comstock Landing. It would prevent flooding of Mr. Chapin's lot and his claims for damage. There was a petition to open Williams Street to Canal Street south of the Rutland Railroad. The owner of the land offered sufficient for a street free of charge. The petitioner wanted a wide and straight street that would lead to the railroad depot from the east side of the creek. Such a street would have to have a bridge across the canal.



The Whitehall Times
January 19, 1979

Proposed Extension of Mountain Street - 1876
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



Proposed Extension of Mountain Street

In the village records of 4 September 1876 there is an entry "Received petition for opening a new street from the middle bridge to Mountain Street. Referred to the street committee with power to have the necessary survey made with the estimated costs and report the same to the Board."

Action was taken on the petition for there is the map of the proposed street made by George Thompson Hall, Whitehall civil engineer and surveyor.

One could wish the records were fuller, for there are no reasons given for the proposed street, nor the committee for the survey, except that H. McCotter was the street commissioner for the east side of the village and he soon afterwards resigned from that post. Even the newspaper had no comment on the petition.

Conjecture can be made as to why the proposed street was not made. It would have taken over land of some of the well known business men of the time whose property faced on Williams street or who had business property facing Mountain Street and Skene Street. Also the proposal would be very close to other buildings along the route.

Coming from Mountain Street the first destruction would have been the shop and property of Fred Greenough, a painter. His land and buildings were at the junction of Wilson Avenue and Skene Street.

Across the street from this business was the stone house belonging to the Melancthon Wheeler estate. It still stands at the head of Wilson Alley. Wheeler, an early Whitehaller, was the owner of most of Skene Mountain at one time. The new street would have been very close to the walls of the house. —.

Opposite on Skene Street were two houses belonging to Thomas Wilson a cooper, facing Mountain. Both would have been demolished. In back of the Opera House was the wagon shop of C. H. Lotrace, a blacksmith and a rowboat maker. His dwelling was one of Thomas Wilson's houses as Wilson was at 23 Skene Street and Lotrace at 21.

From there the proposed street would have cut into property along Williams Street. T. Jillson would have had a corner of his lot cut off. The next owner, R. I. Irwin, would have lost a house standing in the back of his lot.

H. T. Gaylord, besides losing a portion of his land would have had the street through a corner of his kitchen, and James Gibson would have had his house completely demolished. From there the street would have entered Williams street to connect with the middle bridge, closely shaving the Opera House and D. P. Nye's building at the south of Hall House.

The cries of alarm at this proposal can well be imagined from these outstanding businesses of the period. They could well have resulted in the village record entry of October "The committee to whom was referred the petition for opening a new street from Williams Street report infavorably. Report accepted and further action postponed."

The Whitehall Times
November 25, 1882

November 1882
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Jewett Adams, newly elected governor of Nevada, was the son of Mrs. S. L. Dwight of Whitehall. His mother received many congratulations. Dwight Street once, ran parallel and north of Bellamy Street. It also was called Buel Street at one time.

The Whitehall Independent
January 16, 1885

1884
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In the latter part of the nineteenth century, a street ran parallel to Bellamy Street on its north side. It ran across the marsh from the railroad toward the west, to connect

probably with the stagecoach road of earlier times. In this area was a body of water which, so he told me, Jesse Walker used to hunt ducks.

This street on early maps was marked Dwight Street. Later it was named Buel Street, doubtless for Julio T. Buel.

The Whitehall Times October 10, 1977

Some Streets in 1893 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Streets and road conditions are, like the weather, a common topic of conversation. Back in 1893 Street Commissioner McGowen was commended for the improved condition of some of our thoroughfares. He did a fine job on Poultney Street with a new road machine.

Quoting from the news item: This has been one of the worst roads in town particularly from Robetor's house to Edmund P. Wood's but the hollows have been filled in and the sides graded off so that the water will run off into the gutters and not remain in the center of the highway to become stagnant and filthy. Splendid work has also been done on Potter Street. This too has been little better than a cow path. Judge Potter has set out a row of elms on Poultney Street in front of the vacant lot owned by him. The road east of the Brick Church is in prime condition and there is now no occasion for grumbling about that road, whatever there may have been in the past or whatever may be the condition of other roads in town.

Other Improvements

Harding and Bascom Store has just been treated to a fine coat of light olive, giving it a pleasing appearance and further south the front of O'Neil Brothers' was also painted, the color not being stated.

Oppenheim's Jewelry store had an attractive display, well worth stopping to admire. A display of watches was interspersed with flowers and plants.

Along the streets were to be seen some splendid delivery carts. Buckley and Harrigan had two newly painted meat carts. C. J. Vannier had completed a new delivery wagon for H. B. Martin, the finest ever built in town was the judgment. Blodgett and Hendrick topped them with a two wheeled pastry cart, so splendid that, "everyone will want to buy something from it."

The Whitehall Independent

December 30, 1987

1913

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Origins of streets and their names are a topic of interest. On 12 August 1913 Charles B. Pike attended the Village Board meeting and offered the Village two streets for their acceptance. The names were to be Pike Street and Brookdale Street.

Pike Street was to start from Saunders Street which was west of the Potter House which occupied the southwest corner lot of Blount and Saunders Street. The lot belonged at that time to Admiral William P. Potter having been passed on to him by a Griswold ancestor. The new street would run a little east from Blount Street 228 feet to a cottage that Pike was building. "The cottage is still at the end of Pike Street on the south side of the second street he was offering. The Village trustees accepted Pike Street at that time.

Brookdale Street, which had been rejected, would have run parallel to Saunders Street and at right angles to Pike Street. Its name evidently was suggested from the ravine as dale to the south of this area through which Potash Creek ran from West Mountain across West Street and on down to Wood Creek.

Buildings in Whitehall have been erected in spurts along Canal (Main) after the fire of 1860; on Vaughn and Blinn Streets after the Blinn farm was divided; and Champlain Avenue for the increased number of workers for the silk mill. The three mansions on Skene and West Mountains were constructed in the same time period.

The Whitehall Times

June 18, 1987

1914 & 1915

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In the early fall New York State was contemplating the building of a part of Route 22 from South Bay through Broad and Canal Streets. This road from the north went down Bellamy Street to Broad Street and on south through Canal Street. Before Canal Street was opened, the main route from the Bar went from Church Street to the South.

At this time the village fathers and citizens considered there was no better time to have the street paved. There were two choices to consider, Bitsified Brick long lasting and best, or cheaper concrete but not as serviceable. It seemed the majority favored the brick. Another question at the time was who should pay for the paving? The state and the railroad would pay the greater share and it would seem the village should pay the rest by taxes, not individual landowners.

An interesting sidelight to the paving project was the attempt to make the Delaware and Hudson Company pave between the tracks with some material compatible

with the pavement to be laid by the village. This, the railroad did not want to do as so very often ties and tracks had to be taken up for repairs.

The paving question was placed before the voters in October. The cost would be \$33,000 to be constructed in 1915 from Bellamy Street to the south corporation line. The vote was in the affirmative. Although there were about 600 voters in the village, only 306 turned out to vote on this important question. The vote was 262 for and 44 against. Bonds were sold for the cost.

The Whitehall Times
November 19, 1970

Pike Street
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

This brings us to another street name. Mr. Pike owned extensive land area on Blount Street and across Saunders Street down to the brook. At the present end of Pike Street and head of Brookdale Avenue he built a tenant house for one of his workmen. For a long time this was reached only by boards laid down in the mud. Gradually this was paved and named Pike Street after a well-known citizen of Whitehall who once owned the land.

(Robert Fagan and Floyd Coleman also lived in this house. kb)

The Whitehall Times
December 3, 1970

Brookdale Avenue
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Brookdale Avenue -- a romantic combination of two natural features — a brook which still runs from West Mountain and a dale which still exists between the avenue and the hill in the western part of the village. It was in this dale that a covered spring, once owned by Charles Pike, supplied drinking water to the neighborhood for a long time.

Horatio and Cornelia Douglass decided to build a home in this area. This was finished in 1922. At that time Robert Fagan lived in the present home of Robert Campbell. Together he and the Douglass's thought up the combination name of Brookdale Avenue.

The Whitehall Times
July 9, 1987

Canal Street to Broad Street
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The bricks used to pave Canal Street and Broad Street filled 90 cars. Each brick weighed a fraction less than ten pounds - about twice the weight of an ordinary brick. It required 1,500 bricks to pave both streets.

An odd situation occurred in March 1915. An outsider was given permission by the village trustees to renumber the houses but did not authorize the renumbering. The man selling the house numbers renumbered the houses in the opposite direction from what they were at first. A free delivery mail system was being considered and it was necessary to have the buildings numbered but many owners objected to so violent a change.

The Whitehall Times
July 16, 1987

Name Change – Canal to Main, May 1915
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

On 11 May 1915 the name of Canal Street was changed. Much talk concerning a name change occurred but the one chosen was Main Street. This started at the bar and ran to the southern limits of the village. It contained the present Main Street and beginning south of the tunnel to the village limits on what is now Broadway.

The Whitehall Times
July 23, 1987

South Bay Road - 1915
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

By July 1915 the road from Whitehall to South Bay Bridge had become almost impassable. For months the members of Whitehall had communicated with the state highway department over the route. The department's officials finally came to Whitehall to make a trip in an auto over the road. They were astonished to see its wretched condition and deplored the delay in letting the contract. They gave hope that such a contract would be let the latter part of the month and also a contract for a highway from the bridge north to Dresden early in the spring.

Then came the jolt. It was necessary to obtain a small strip of land worth \$150 in the highway of one and a half miles. It was reported that this might hold up the contract for another. There was a good end to the story. By 3 November 100 men were pushing the work and it was expected to be completed by New Years. It was a pleasure jaunt for Whitehallers to go north to watch the men at work.

The Whitehall Times
January 9, 1986

Whitehall – Dresden Road - 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The construction of the Whitehall-Dresden road was awarded to John L. Hayes of Yonkers. He was building the Storm King Highway in the southern part of the state.

The Whitehall Times
January 23, 1986

South Main (Broadway) - 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A sidewalk was constructed on South Main (Broadway) from Third to Fifth Avenues. For years the walk had been what seemed to be a cow path which when it rained turned into a series of lagoons from one hole to another. The new selectmen were paying attention to the petitions of the citizens.

The Whitehall Times
March 6, 1986

Whitehall – Fair Haven Road - 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Van Wagenen Company made \$100,000 on the Whitehall Fair Haven road which was now completed. Contractors had been reluctant to bid because of what they thought to be hard rock. It turned out to be shale rock which was easily turned with a steam shovel.

The Whitehall Times
April 12, 1984

Whitehall – Dresden Road - 1926
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The state road south of Ripley's to Dresden Station was, entirely completed, with the exception of the shoulders. Traffic was heavy.

The Whitehall Times
April 12, 1984

Church Street - 1933
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A slide presentation of the grade crossing elimination of 1933 will be the program of Founder's Day luncheon of the Historical Society of Whitehall, Saturday, May 8, at the Grange hall.

George Greenough has prepared slides from some of the 250 pictures taken on location by Edgar B. Sufelt, Frank Heavey of the Fellowcraft Studios and the railroad staff.

George Morse, a former employee of the Department of Transportation, gave the pictures to Skenesborough Museum because his father who had worked on the locks had an interest in Whitehall. With the pictures he gave also a display of Nazi military unused emblems, a gun kit from Mr. Morse's experience in World War H.

The 1933 project eliminated one of distinctive streets of Whitehall, called appropriately Church Street. The street itself was laid out in 1810 from the Bar toward the early road to Fort Ann. The surveys of 1839, 1849 and 1861 show the street as extending from the north side of Bellamy Street to a point near the building owned at various times by Robert Orr, H. G. Tisdale, and Joseph Linty on the west side opposite the Excelsor Building, opposite the present Whitehall Volunteer Fire Company.

In 1850 the railroad tunnel was constructed between Saunders and Bellamy streets under Church Street to reach the Lake Station constructed in 1851. Whitehall was unique in having a main line of a railroad tunnel through one of its main streets until 1933. Many are the tales of experiences connected with the stalled freight cars, the mishaps and near mishaps along the street.

The map of 1866 shows 19 buildings on the street. The pictorial map of 1875 shows 17 buildings, with some assorted smaller ones, evidently barns and sheds. The directory of 1893-1894 lists 27 buildings with 58 people named as inhabitants; the 1925 directory, 35 houses with 51 people named; and the 1927, 24 houses with 112 people. In 1933 the buildings from Bellamy Street to Saunders had disappeared with the exception of the Masonic Temple (1907), the Presbyterian Church and the former Griswold home,

the latter two of which had been moved back to widen what had once been a street of 55 feet.

The completion of the elimination was celebrated with an Old Home Week. But such a celebration could not celebrate the removal of citi.....???????

The reason for the name of the street is easy to see. In 1819 the First Presbyterian Church was removed from Williams Street to its present site. In 1832 the Methodist Episcopal Church (1832 to 1968) was located at the now vacant lot south of the present manse. The St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1837 to 1842, was on the site of the present Masonic Temple. Its building became the Baptist church from 1848 to 1874 when it burned. In 1841 St. Anthony's Catholic Church was erected at the intersection of Saunders and Church Streets to be demolished in 1868 for the extension of Saunders. In 1843 St. Paul's Episcopal Church was located about the site of Longtin's filling station. Its congregation moved to the present site of the Trinity Episcopal Church in 1865. When the Catholic congregation divided into the English and French speaking groups, the French congregation moved into the St. Paul's Episcopal vacant building. This congregation moved to its present location in 1894.

The Whitehall Independent October 14, 1987

Tug Hill versus Tom Joe Hill Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

At various times controversies have been held over the location of Tug Hill. Doubtless the younger generation in Whitehall does not even know the name. In the twenties when Clarence Holden was collecting material for a history of Whitehall, he and some of his assistants held a debate on the topic. Such men as Luke Carrington, Herman Sullivan, David Rodd, Esther Burt, W. F. Bascom, and many others took part.

Several other names entered the discussion. The final vote was in favor of Tug Hill. Here were the conclusions. Philip Teal lived on the south side of Saunders Street at the summit of the hill and so it later became Teale's Hill. Saunders Street ran over the hill north to South Bay and was the entrance to the village from the north, even as late as 1919 when the Commercial Building burned. Thus heavy carts were dragged up the hill. Before the war when the clay mud was 6 inches to 2 feet deep it was a "tug" for the horses to get up the hill which began at Canal (Main) Street. Its real steepness began at Blount Street. It was the steepest hill but not the longest one in the village. Men who had lived in the vicinity, like Henry Griswold and Warren Lamb on Lamb and Blount Streets; S. McLachlin and Mr. Sears on Rock Avenue and Saunders Street said it was called Tug Hill - never in their long life times anything else. It was the "dare-devil" hill for boys who went sledding. Later it was called "Caton" hill from which the Caton Kennels were named.

The rival hill in the debate was Bellamy Hill. This street, Bellamy, began west of the slip on the lake, went west crossing the railroad track at the northern end of the tunnel and united with Saunders Street at the summit of the hill. It crossed Broad Street (North

Main) and went by the Line Barn which held the transportation line animals. Between those two the road was fairly level. The hill itself was not as steep as Tug Hill.

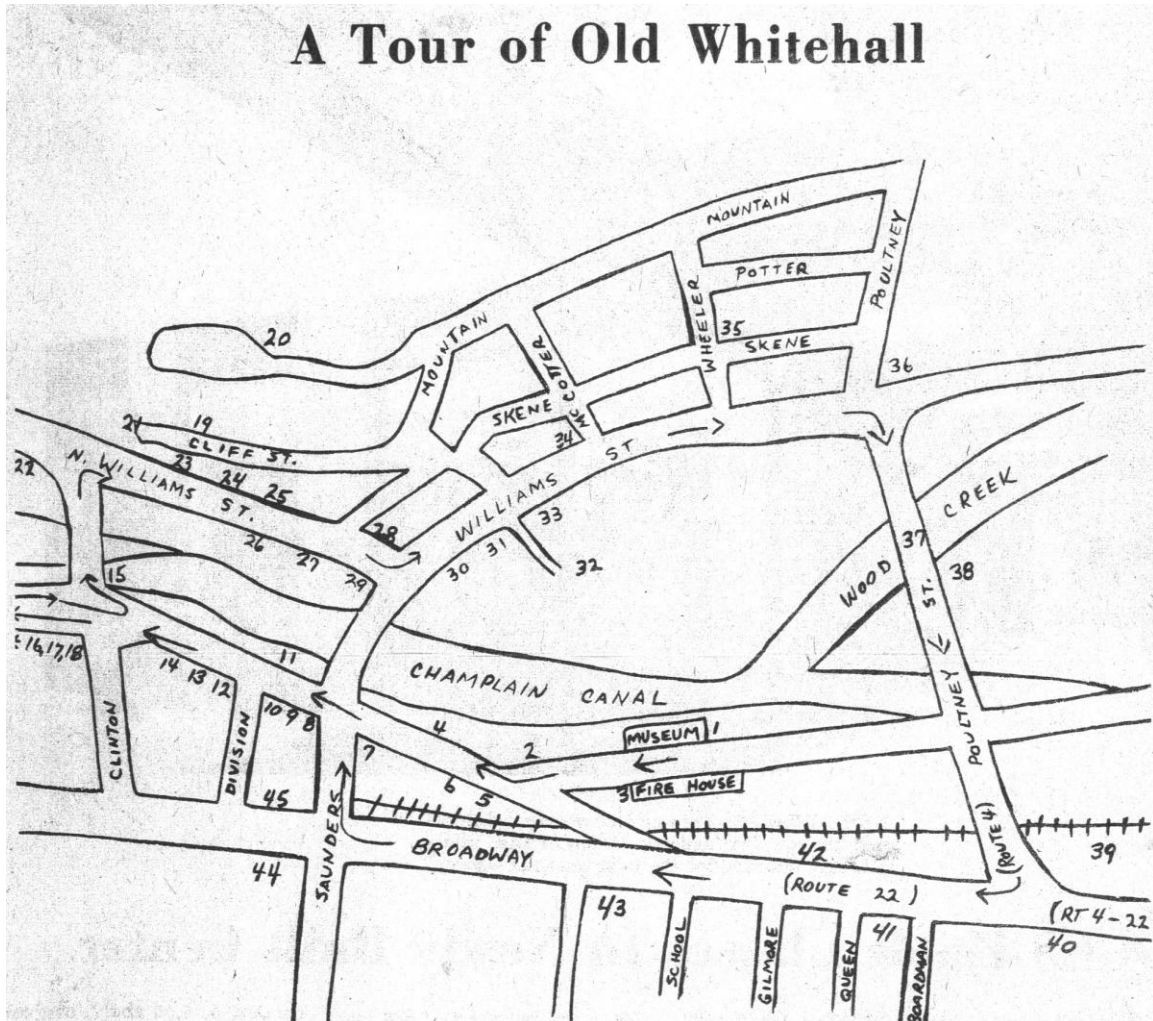
This hill was known by a number of names. It was the Line Barn Hill because of the proximity of that landmark. It (was called Tom Joe Hill because many of Whitehall's Negro families lived on it, including Tom Joe. This was the neighborhood in which the Baltimore families lived who came to Whitehall with their daughter who married Joseph Henry. He was a well known blacksmith. Several of his hand wrought pieces are in Skenesborough Museum.

The Henry girls, as his daughters became known, delivered Mrs. Murphy's homemade candy when they were young. When she retired the girls became the owner of that business, including the secret recipes. They continued making these candies late in life and it was deemed a privilege to watch them make and pull a batch of taffy. From the executor of their estate I learned that these recipes were sold to a dealer in Chicago.

The Henry girls lived near the junction of Tom Joe Hill and on the Tug Hill road that continued north by their house.

The Whitehall Times
September 23 & 30, 1971

Upper Hudson Historical Federation Tour
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



Perhaps some Whitehalls would like to follow the route visitors of the Upper Hudson Historical Federation followed last Saturday as guests of the Historical Society of Whitehall.

The descriptions are not complete, of course, and there are many more places to see. But these stress the fact that Whitehall has a heritage of which to be proud.

1. Skenesborough Museum was built in 1917 of reinforced concrete as a canal terminal where cargoes were registered. It was given to the
2. On the right Whitehall Volunteer Fire Company. The firehouse was moved from Broadway in 8 1/3 hours to make way for the new railroad bed. Town of Whitehall in 1960 as long as it was used as a museum.
3. On the left Skenesborough Fire company firehouse erected in 1966.

4. On the right Riverside Park made possible by public spirited citizens headed by the Civic League on the site of the old canal bed. *Fountain* in the center was a horse watering trough. Check-reined horses drank from the top basin. It stood before 1912 down by Lock 12; was moved across the canal before the Scott Building before being placed in the park.
5. On the left the American Legion home in 1860 was the home of the Masons, as seen in the plaque at the top. Buildings here to Lock 12 are, according to Hans Klunder, Inc., consultant to the Whitehall Planning boards, an architectural gem of store fronts for the period 1860-1900 that should be preserved. Look at them also from Williams street.
6. The town building was originally a national bank.
7. The present National Bank on the corner was the Merchants National bank, chartered in 1873.
8. Montgomery Ward was a former drug store in the Renois Block in the later 1800's and early 1900's.
9. Two stores with the yellow tops was the Temple of Economy of John O'Neil of the whiskey jug fame.
10. Fragnoli's was a three-story hardware store of Wood and Hotchkiss, erected in 1878.
11. On the right is the parking lot built on the old canal bed. From Williams street you will see the stone wall that supported the first two canals
12. The Telephone building had a music hall upstairs where entertainment from New York City was held and local amusements. This extended across the top of the Oneida Market.
13. Over J. J. Newberry's store are Griswold's Iron Front building, so-called because it had an iron grill across the top; a dance hall was on the top floor.
14. Anderson Hall which held the village armory where the Burleigh Corps, later the Ninth Separate Company, drilled.
15. Lock 12 completed in 1912 after a whole block of buildings was removed to make way for the machinery. The canal was moved over into the bed of Wood Creek.
16. Out North Main Street, a first street of Whitehall, with a solid strip of ground on the right called "The Bar" along the harbor where the first United States fleet was constructed in 1776. A plaque is near here. The area on the left was, not too long ago, covered with water through which the railroad ran to the Lake Station where the lake boats brought passengers.
17. On the right Lake Champlain Shipbuilding, Inc. Whitehall was active in building boats, lake, sailing, canal, row, and guide.
18. "The Line" coal chute, on the left. Note the signature at the top on the north side. This belonged to the Lake Champlain Transportation Company. On the way back to Lock 12 look up at Skene Manor.

19. *The 19 shown on this map has no explanation. kb*
20. Skene Manor was built from limestone cut on Skene Mountain as the home of Washington County's famous Judge Joseph Potter, father of Whitehall's Admiral William P. Potter. Built in 1874 it served later as the home of a silk mill superintendent. Mr. Sachs, a jeweler, in his tenure, changed the town clock from the Presbyterian Church to its tower and kept it running. Later it became a restaurant. The original wall paper frieze has been kept in the entrance hall. A beautiful view rewards one from its yard. (It was not Philip Skene's home.)
21. A Civil War cannon brought to Whitehall by its citizens to be used as a memorial for its service men; dedicated in 1899.
22. Crossing the bridge you will see the ruins of the old silk mill, erected in 1883. Champlain Silk Mill was a main industry for many years. This mill stood idle when the Indus try was removed to the New Silk Mill farther south.
23. Look across the canal to see the store fronts and retaining wall.
24. On the left Scott's large brick building, earlier Doren's Furniture Store.
25. On the left a building with I.O.O.F. letters. This was the Whitehall Chronicle building, a newspaper started in 1840 which ran for a long time concurrently with The Whitehall TIMES.
26. On the right Liberty Eatery, an antique shop and restaurant. From Main Street you can see its "butterfly roof," an uncommon roof type which took care of rain water.
27. The Whitehall TIMES Building, circa 1840, was among other things at various times a coffin factory, a stable, a Chinese laundry. The Whitehall TIMES was established in 1815 with its predecessor, American Sentinel.
28. On the left the B.P.O.E. Building which stands on the site of Whitehall's famous Opera House, 1875. Theatre troops on their way from New York to Montreal used to stop in Whitehall for a week.
29. On the right the village building 1908 which was formerly constructed as a fire house which housed the fire engines and hose carts of the early fire department. Note the wide windows areas that were doors.
30. The Griswold Library was a home willed to the village as a library; erected in 1856.
31. On the right a red brick house dated about 1810; home of Mr. and Mrs. Farnham who have kept the wide floor boards.
32. A roadway to the right leads to a building used as a leather tannery in the later 1800's.
33. "Ecole" apartments remodeled from the Williams Street School erected in 1899.
34. On the left the Baptist Church erected 1874-1876 but remodeled when fire claimed much of it.
35. Up the next street to the left can be seen Notre Dame des Victoires, the church of the French speaking population erected in 1896. From here

- the brick houses on Williams Street were constructed of brick made in the local brick yards in the middle of the 19th century.
36. On the left is the armory built in 1900, home of the Ninth Separate Company. Note the rare silver birch trees in the yard. The two cannons on the lawn were raised from the area of Lock 12. They were from the fleet of the first United States Navy sunk in the harbor during the battle of Skenesborough in 1777.
 37. Across Wood Creek, a winding stream across whose meanders the Champlain Canal was built, forming the island on which
 38. is the New Silk Mill, now Whitehall Metals factory, in World War 1.
 39. The railroad of familiar railroad structure built in 1892 now very inactive because of the decline of railroad passenger trade. At one time over 76 trains a day went through Whitehall, north, south and east.
 40. New Arlington Hotel of the 1860 structure but remodeled.
 41. Our Lady of Angels Church built in 1868 for the Irish section of the population. *(This church was razed in March of 2008 kb)*
 42. On the right Knights of Columbus which was the former Railroad Y.M.C.A., 1895. A hospital was once located here. Along the left side of the street are homes built on terraces that once were enclosed with iron fences, some going back to 1827.
 43. United States Post Office in which is a mural painted by W.P.A. artist. Whitehall had the first post office north of Albany by grant from Benjamin Franklin to Philip Skene.
 44. To the left by Saunders Street is the Presbyterian Church erected in 1819 but remodeled when the new rail bed was made.
 45. Across the street is the present Masonic temple. This area north of Saunders Street was a hill on which was located a fort and barracks from the French and Indian War until long after the War of 1812.

The Whitehall Times

May 25, 1978

Answers to Street Questions

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

What street was named after a person who bought much of Whitehall's confiscated property? Skene's lands were illegally confiscated by an Act of Attainer by the State of New York 22 October 1779. The lands should have been restored to them by the Treaty of Peace of 30 November 1782. But this did not occur and men moved in to buy up the desirable land in the area. One who purchased much of the Skenesborough Patent land was General John Williams who owned about half of Whitehall's lands at one time. Many of the early deeds of Whitehall property bear the names of his descendants, John and Fannie Williams, who inherited his estate.

Another Salem gentleman who owned land in Whitehall was Ebenezer Proudfit. The site at the corner of Division and Canal streets was in his name as well as the area on West Street where School 17 stands.

What street was named after an illustrious visitor of 1824? This was Lafayette. We have the goblet he gave to one of the little flower girls who threw flowers in his path across the old foot bridge and the various stones of both boys and girls who took part in that visit, told before in this column.

What street was named for Whitehall's founder? Skeene Street, erroneously spelled with two e's if it were named for the founder, is one of the old streets. The State of New York has been alerted to their misspelling of both

Williams Street and Skene Street on the new signs erected in the village.

What street was once called Canal Street? Both Main Street and part of Broadway was once Canal Street with the southern region being noted as South Canal Street. The first canal path was much farther to the west than it now is.

What street was named for a discoverer and a lake? Champlain Avenue reminds us of Samuel Champlain who discovered the lake and gave its name. He did not reach far as Whitehall in his travels, though according to some historians, he did come far as Washington County.

What street was called Academy? Division Street had at the northwest corner of Center Street the first academy of Whitehall, a two-story building which had a bell and besides its use as a school held many of the first church meetings of various denominations in it. It burned in 1850 after which the second academy on Williams Street was formed.

What street was called South Bay Street? A road at the time extended over West Mountain to South Bay and along the side of the bay south to the head of the bay. After the school was built in 1866-67, the street name was hanged, but at a later date.

What street was named for family containing a judge and an admiral? Joseph Potter bought the Skene Mountain property from the Mclancthon Wheeler Estate and at one time had a large orchard and vineyard on the land which is now Potter Street. His son was Rear Admiral William B. Potter. What street was renamed Maple Street? Sixth Street was named because it was the sixth street from the north of the village when it was opened. When streets to the south of it were opened and numbered, a natural thing to do was to rename it. Maple was the chosen name.

What street was named because of a geographic nature? Two streets can claim that distinction, Mountain and Cliff streets.

What street was named after a family of lawyers? Joseph and Sanford Potter were brothers in the legal profession. O. E. Davis and Robert Doig were lawyers dominant in Whitehall's history. Mr. Davis owned large section of land from which was taken Davis, Pauline and Elizabeth Streets and Champlain Avenue.

What street was named for one of our principal occupations? Railroading was once principal industry of our community. *(Was it Canal? Ms. Morton doesn't say. kb)*

What street was named for geographical direction? East and North streets have come about for the directions which they run. What street disappeared entirely into Broadway? From the top of what was a hill that held Whitehall's fort and barracks to the Episcopal Church site there were at various times three Episcopal church buildings, the

First Baptist Church, the First Presbyterian Church, Methodist Church, the it Roman Catholic Church, Notre Dame des Victoires Church.

What street was the same as a former school named for a prominent Whitehall family? Melancthon Wheeler owned land in area of Wheeler Avenue As well as Skene Mountain and north of that mountain. Wheeler Avenue School was located on this street. It was torn down after the building of Williams Street School.

What street was named after a French general? Of course we can name Lafayette Street, but we can add Montcalm Avenue, although I can see no record that he ever visited Whitehall.

What street was a girl's name? Mr. Davis had three women in his household, Pauline, Elizabeth and Charlotte. When those streets were opened from his land, these names were applied. Latter Charlotte was changed to Champlain Avenue.

What street was named for a large landowner in the southern part of town? Mr. Blinn owned a large farm south of the large piece of land held by the Adams Family. Mr. Adams gave land streets. Mr. Blinn's farm was divided into smaller plots.

What street was named for a geology phenomenon? Rock Avenue, Cliff Street and Mountain Street could fit into general classification.

What street was named for its beautification project? When buildings were erected for the influx of silk mill workers, Park Avenue was made with a center grass section that was to be free of construction.

Tall Tales

The Whitehall Times April 22, 1971

Sea Serpent (Champ) - 1873 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The spring 1971 issue of YORK STATE TRADITION has an article "Addendum to the Sea Serpent Story, The Whitehall Chapter." This quarterly, formerly NORTH COUNTRY LIFE, is a book-sized magazine devoted to the history of New York State. Its publisher and editor G. Glyndon Cole is now ably assisted by two librarians at SUNY Pittsburgh. The article is by Connie Pope, one of these librarians whose interest at present is sea serpent stories. She took her material from the WHITEHALL TIMES of 1873. Ben Carpenter also told this story recently in "Broadway and Canal." The names and places in this hoax are familiar ones for this area, as WHITEHALL TIMES editor William A. Wilkins made the story as realistic as possible.

The Whitehall Times 1978

Lake Champlain Champ

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

With Mr. Zarzynski's hobby in the news of today any bit on sea serpents is noticed. In a scrap book of the 30's is an account of an interview of Frank Burrough. It reads: "This famous serpent, according to people of this locality, lived in the deepest portion of the lake off Essex, though back in 1918 he ventured as far south as South Bay near here.

"Frank Burrough, who has lived in a cabin under the shadow of Oak Ridge near the east shore of the bay for more than 35 years, saw the monster at the time while fishing from a boat in the bay.

"There was a sudden upheaval of the calm bay close to Diameter," said Mr. Burrough. Then he saw the monster emerge from the waters. It was of immense length with a ridge of fins 15 feet long and six feet apart on the back. Its skin was smooth, not scaly, and it had a round head like an alligator. It remained in sight 20 minutes.

This was taken from an article in the Albany Evening Times and printed, probably in the Glens Falls news, some time in the year 1934. This scrap book was not completely dated.

The Whitehall Times

May 11, 1978

Champ Again

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Recently Joseph Zarzynski of Wilton spoke to the Historical Society of Whitehall on the topic of sea serpents in the lakes of the world. He said that only when a sighting of Nessie, the Scotch monster, had been authenticated could the search for Lake Champlain's Champ be supported.

In April Mr. Zarzynski spent a week at Loch Ness in Scotland where he learned that two confirmed sightings had been made, the latest one being April 19 by two salmon fishermen. These sightings now free the investigation of Champ. One will be at Crown Point July 9.

Some Kiwanis members in the north have taken umbrage at the article printed in the Reader's Digest of June. Their main concern seems to be the name that has been given to the monster. They have organized contests in the grades of the local schools in an attempt to find what they believe will be a better name given by the people of the Lake Champlain area for the creature.

The Whitehall Times
April 9, 1981

Lake Champlain Creatures
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

This column is copied from Robert F. Hall's "North Country Almanac" in the Elizabethtown Valley News of March 11, captioned "Lands Freak Fish From Lake Champlain." The news article he presented from a clipping:

"Lake Champlain recently gave up a four-legged fish which may prove valuable in the study of science.

Fishing through the ice covered Lake Champlain harbor in Whitehall, Harry H. Farrell, a barge worker, lifted out a four-legged fish. It is about three feet long and four inches in diameter at the largest point, weighing more than 15 pounds. It has a head resembling a monkey, four legs and feet similar to an Emidiidae — legs about six inches in length.

The texture and appearance of the skin of the fish is not unlike the hide of a black bass. When annoyed the water animal makes a noise like the chatter of a monkey. Farrell plans to have the freak catch mounted."

Mr. Hall went on to say:

"Those marine scientists who placed discussion of the Lake Champlain Monster in the context of prehistoric creatures such as the coelacanth and the zeuglodon gave our local monster a large measure of credibility."

If the coelacanth could be caught off the eastern coast of Africa in 1938 after being considered extinct from Millennia, then it is conceivable that a prehistoric creature long thought extinct certainly may exist in the depths of Lake Champlain

I am indebted to Mrs. Lona DuBay for a yellowed newspaper clipping which antedates much of the current discussion about the Lake Champlain Monster but which confirms the possibility of prehistoric fish swimming about in our near-by lake.

The Lake Champlain Monster has been described as serpent-like with a body like a dragon and a long neck. Our scientists who argued for evidence in our monster suggested it might be an otherwise extinct member of the whale family known apparently from fossils to have a long neck. This was the zeuglodon referred to above.

The coelacanth, on the other hand, was a fish with legs which could climb out of the water and waddle across the sandy beach, enjoying the best of both worlds . . .

We have no information on the date of the clipping or the newspaper in which it appeared, although it seems likely that its source was The Whitehall Times.

It would also seem probable that the mounted creature, if it still exists, is somewhere in the area of Whitehall.

If any one who reads this has more information on Mr. Farrell or his family, or the location of the mounted fish with four legs, that person should come forward and thus make a contribution to science.

I am confident it would make front page news and material for television.

We would hate to disillusion our good friend Rob Hall, but the freak fish appears to have been another creation back in the 1920's of Jack Moore, onetime columnist for

The Times. Jack's fertile imagination produced, among other things, the battle between an eagle and a transport plane, a frog farm and even appearances of the famed Lake Champlain serpent.

The Henry Farrell referred to was a great-uncle of Mrs. Mary Trainor . . . and I feel sure she never saw the mounted fish. — B.C.

**The Whitehall Times
July 31, 1986**

**The Sea Serpent - 1886
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Back in 1873 Editor Wilkins printed the hoax of the Lake Champlain Serpent. It is interesting to find this item about a serpent in the ocean off Massachusetts in 1886.

The Sea Serpent is a Reality

O, thou serpent, dragon, demon, hitherto common
Seamen from Alaska to Van Diemen thou hast
Shown they devil visage and they length of scaly
Tail; but none will doubt thy being when a
Councilman of Gloucester and a pedagogue of Boston
Stans up boldly on the roster and declare that they
Have seen thee- how thy skeptics cringe and quail.
O, thou monster megalosaurus! We believe, O don't
Decousus us, we are humble, true believers in thy
Being, famous snake! for no old world
Traveled sailor, that the ocean's waves have
Tossed on 'gainst a Councilman of Gloucester or a
Pedagogue of Boston, would the slightest
Vague denial or mild contradiction make.
In they wander in eccentricity! thou hast long sought
For publicity, but thy valid authenticity men would
Doubt and still deny; but fair truth must stand
Triumphant what so e'er the price it cost her, and a
Pedagogue of Boston and a councilman of Gloucester
Cannot, would not, will not, could not, - could not ever tell a lie.

Lynn Union

The Whitehall Times
September 13, 1979

Champ – August 1879
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Report of Champ of Lake Champlain has been sighted this August. An architect and his wife from Burlington saw him just north of Split Rock.

The Whitehall Times
May 21, 1981

Petrified Sea Serpent – May 1881
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In the May 25 issue is an exchange from the Springfield Republican, entitled The Sea Serpent Discovered — petrified.

The proprietors of the Champlain granite works, located near Barn Rock Bay on Lake Champlain, claim to have discovered a petrified sea serpent of mammoth proportions, being about eight inches in diameter and nearly 50 feet long. The surface of this stone bears evidence of the outer skin of a large serpent, while the inner surface shows the entrails. The proprietors, whose headquarters are at Vergennes, are intending soon to begin excavation along this place where it lies embedded in the dirt and granite to ascertain its size. Holes dug at distances of 60 feet indicate that it is lying in a serpentine form, as though it had, under great upheaval of the earth, worked its way through the rocks in a winding course until bound fast. It is over 100 feet above the level of Lake Champlain in the side of a mountain of the Adirondack Range.

The Whitehall Times
November 23, 1972

A Cat Story – 1885-86
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

There are sea serpent stories of Lake Champlain. Ben Carpenter told the story of 1873 in his Broadway and Canal recently and the York State Tradition told it in its columns. Why not a cat story?

Those over whom cats can hold sway delight in stories of the animals' feats. These two items were in The Whitehall Times of 1885 and 1886 as news. A farmer in East Whitehall was puzzled for a long time as to why he could not get milk from two of his cows in the morning. He suspected neighbors of stealing the milk so set a watch to

catch them. What was his astonishment to discover the thieves to be several cats that roamed wild about his premises. They were found sucking the milk and enjoying banquets such as they had not had as kittens. The cat cemetery had seven graves.

But the village cat of Chauncey Brownell Bates was a topic for several years. Mr. Bates grocery store was opposite A. P. Carver's Meat Market which was located in October, 1885, on the corner - of Broad and High streets, in the former J. F. Clark Store. When the cat was hungry he would go to the cash register, knock for enough money for his purchase, cross the street and buy his meat for dinner. The account stated that Barnum had made an offer for the cat but the animal was such a favorite that Mr. Bates would not part with him.

The following year, 1887, an item reported that Mr. Bates was doing well with his groceries at such prices that please. The customer also had a chance to view the wonderful cat that "in sagacity surpasses even the famous felines of Dame Trot and Master Worthington."

Chauncey Bates was a grocery man. He did not place advertisements in the newspapers but his location must have been on the east side of Broad Street to be opposite A. P. Carver's Meat Market. He had a delivery wagon, as most stores of that time did. Another news item tells of his being a regular "Knight of the Brush" because he did a faultless job in renovating his delivery wagon when it needed painting, Mr. Bates was an influential man. An Episcopalian, he was a vestryman in 1880, 1884-85, 1887-1902, a long period of time. In 1899 he with F. H. McFarren and L. D. Tefft wrote Resolutions of Respect for Hannibal Allen, another long time vestryman. Two of these men, T. H. McFarren and L. D. Tefft, with H. B. Skeels, wrote Resolutions of Respect on his death in 1902.

The Whitehall Independent September 30, 1987

Tall Stories told by John F. Clark Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In the area near Sciota lived Ebenezer Jones, where there was a succession of hills along the Poultney River. He sowed all the intervals with wheat, the usual crop of the pioneers. Mr. Jones had a lout of a boy he called Stoufle de Thunderblunt, Allen Miller Jones. One fall when the wheat was ripe it was so stout he took the boy Stoufle and threw him on top of the heads of wheat. He rolled clear to the foot of the hill without a skid or a break.

This same Jones took his wheat to market to Albany on his horse Buchphelus. Near Albany he noticed what seemed to be a fine piece of timber to hitch his horse to. He went on to Albany to dispose of the grain. The horse became very frightened and in his struggle to release himself he drew a sloop clear up into the street.

Also included in this article is the following

Another amusement in early pioneer days was vocal music. The fugue was popular. All fugue music has one central theme. One such had the central theme of "Send down Salvation, oh Lord, on our poor sinners." The basses started with all solemnity, "Send down Salvation..." the altos next; then the sopranos chimed in to be followed by the tenors in loud voice. It must have been what is called a "round" and evidently done in a hilarious manner.

The Whitehall Times
February 12, 1887

1887

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A "lady in white" was seen in the north of the neighborhood of the Whitehall Bridge in Hudson Falls. The alleged ghost traveled between the hours of twelve and one nightly.

This is a poem that was printed about voting:

My grandfather's vote
Was as good as his note,
And he deemed it more
precious than gold.
Were he present today
What on earth would he say
At the way they are
bartered and sold?
Were he now at the polls
Where men barter their souls
For a few paltry dimes and a drink
Could he rise from his dust
In the name of the just?
What, oh what, would my grandfather say.

This is a story of a prominent man in town when buying votes was in practice. He watched a man whose vote he usually had being persuaded by another. He followed the man to the voting box and as the hand was reached out to drop the ballot, he took it and dropped his into the box, saying "I've always had your vote and I'm not going to lose it!"

The Whitehall Times
October 19, 1987

Huge Snowflake - 1887
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Another story from Dresden was not about the serpent of 1873. During a snow storm, Burr Benjamin caught a single snow flake which soon evolved into a quart of pure water. This was vouched for by a "reliable Dresdenite."

The Whitehall Independent
June 13, 1984

The Tonsorial Artists - 1896
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The account of the young tonsorial artists in July 1896 cannot be called folklore for the events really happened. But the stories take on that flavor as the actions of the young group and their friends are recounted.

There were Hard-Up, Hossie, Dead-wood, Buckeydo, Spook, and the Dude Bar-Tender. The first Sunday's outing down the lake was at Tom Walker's camp. The day passed pleasantly with perfect clam chowder and other abundant foods. The return journey proceeded as far as "the draw" when all decided to go ashore to slake their thirst. Hossie took his clarinet. Hard-Up began a serpentine dance. To the boys' dismay, the clarinetist also charmed three huge water snakes which came out of the water to wriggle in high glee. The humans immediately began to scramble for the boat. Spook reached it first and Buckeydo fell into the rower's seat. He succeeded only in splashing them all. Threatened with a choice of rowing straight, going ashore, or drowning, he chose to go ashore. Spook pitied him and elected to walk with him. They reached town quicker than the others.

A week later, the artists, excepting Spook, repeated the outing with a clam bake. Their first escapade was to shoot down a "two bagger", two ducks. (Jesse Walker related how he, when a boy, used to shoot ducks in the water area between the railroad track and the State Road north). The credit for the shooting was taken by Deadwood. Next, Hard-Up in trolling felt the line come taut and the boat was stopped in its movement, and then started backward. Hard-Up yelled for help and with the combined effort of the Dude Bar-Tender brought the monster to the surface and gaffed it. Not knowing what to call it, the boys affixed the name Jonah's Whale, because of its size.

Nearing Walker's camp, the artists found themselves in low water. Buckeydo, the heaviest, stepped out to lighten the load. He started to sink in the marsh. He had on a new pair of shoes and thinking of their loss, yelled for help. The others thought he was joking and kept laughing. When they finally realized he was actually sinking, they went to his rescue. It was a treacherous time in the sand, but they succeeded in pulling him out

and spent the rest of the afternoon in cleaning him and his new shoes. They then ate a plate of chowder and went back to Whitehall.

These tales may have been handed down in the families, as folk tales are and the boys may be recognized. The artists" were Buckeydo Welsh, Deadwood Brennan, Hossie the clarinetist, Ross Mala?, the Dude Bar-Tender, Hard-Up Case, and Spook Boyle.

Seth Hitchcock was the first teacher of vocal music in Sciota. The music teacher was a man greatly respected in the community. There were singing books written with buckwheat notes just lines with note figures on them. A society known as the Western Vermont and North Whitehall Society was formed for chorus singing. This included Castleton and Poultney participants. This group conceived the idea that an orchestra should be formed. Mr. Wood went out to the towns and eagerly sought all who owned instruments to meet for a rehearsal under Professor Wood from Boston. He handed out sheets with the buckwheat notes on them after the tuning of the instruments had taken place. Professor Wood gave the signal to begin and then such a noise of squeaks and squawks began that the hair rose on his head. The next morning all the would-be volunteer orchestra filled every road from the village weary people carrying their instruments home, but happy to know they could then play their own instruments in their own way.

Whitehall over the years has had famed quartets, bands and renditions of popular operas. Music in the schools has always been good. But in the latter era when a musical movie came to the theatre it was not well attended. Of course, by then the popular Community Concerts were being held in various towns around; and now there is television.

The Whitehall Independent **May 25, 1983**

A Bull Story **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Whitehall, Dresden, and Clemons have always been close in history by means of personalities. This event was laid in Dresden with two well known persons, ex-supervisor Timothy Sleight and Samuel Rice. They went Vermont side with a lighter to bring back a bull. When halfway home on the lake, the bull decided he didn't like the boat ride but might like the water instead, paddling his own canoe. So with a frisk of his tail, a toss of his head, and a wink of his eye he went overboard.

Tim, not to be outdone by a mere bull, decided to take the bull by the horns and followed. A sturdy man, he was soon astride the animal. By dropping a toe of his foot behind, and the bull furnishing the power, Tim steered a course for shore. But the bull dissented and made a great effort to unseat his rider. First Tim was on top and then the bull amid a great thrashing of the water.

The bull had not reckoned with the man on his back who stuck to the horns like "a puppy to a root". The fight was a valiant one with Tim keeping out of the way of the horns.

Meanwhile back in the lighter, Mr. Rice tried to assist with an oar but found that inadequate. Thinking to entice the brute, Samuel held out a wisp of hay from the boat, hoping to bring him on board but he didn't seem interested.

Finding he could not get rid of the man, an extraordinary foe, the bull became calmer and started to paddle toward shore on the New York side. Tim steered with his toes and the demoralized animal finally stepped ashore.

The bull was now as docile as a kitten and as submissive, while Tim was master of the situation and Samuel was relieved.

The Whitehall Times

June 18, 1981

Snakes Alive

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Although I know the benefit of snakes in the scheme of nature, I find them repugnant, but I must tell this story of Dresden. An octogenarian had been troubled in corn planting time by crows stealing the seed. Scarecrows did nothing to them.

Rube Davis, the rattlesnake man of Lake George, was hired to furnish protection for the next seeding. On the day appointed he appeared with six rattlesnakes in his pockets. He made six little houses or dens in different parts of the cornfield and covered them with flat stones, placing a snake in each den and talking to it. He always asserted that the snakes understood him.

The seeds were planted. The birds that seemed to have been watching came, the men observed. Down dove the crows and out came the snakes. They wound themselves about the crows' necks, killing them almost instantaneously. Sometimes a bird would rise into the air a few feet with a snake wound around its neck but soon would fall.

The first day of destruction, 73 crows were killed. During the following ten days, 742 corn thieves had died. The editor remarked, "Snake stories are very thick nowadays, but we are sorry to say that most of them are pretty thin."

The Whitehall Times

December 19, 1985

Frog Callers from "Bits and Pieces" - 1922

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In his "Ramblings and Rumor" Jack Moore told that Napoleon Rodd was the prize "lurer" of frogs at the Elbow. He could so ably mimic the frogs of both sexes that they

would hop from their hiding places and follow them to his back door. Other men who had like talent were "Petue" Joseph Rodd and "Bung" Rodd.

The Whitehall Times
June 16, 1986

The Indian Bowl from "Bits and Pieces" - 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Indian Bowl at Potter's mansion came into the news. It was said to be on the west side of the house, a good sized boulder of rock evidently used by the Indians for grinding corn. Joseph Bellow, caretaker for years on the grounds, reported that he has found bones of large animals and large bullets of lead. Mr. Bellow also had quite a collection of arrow heads which he claimed he picked up at various times while strolling on the mountain. The remains of this pot hole which it evidently is, is still in existence, and Indians did stop in the area to make arrow heads. The story probably "grew" as did the story of the coffin. It made good talking.

The Whitehall Times
July 30, 1981

A Dewey Dream
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

On several occasions I have heard that Admiral George Dewey visited Whitehall after the Spanish-American War. The nearest account I have ever found is an item in The Whitehall Times of 2 June 1899. Perhaps the Admiral had been invited to the village or perhaps it was a wistful rumor that provoked this factious visit — A Dewey Dream — What the Hero Would Say and Do in Whitehall. Some reporter must have had an amusing time doing the story.

The Admiral arrived by train from the south. He was met by Ernest Greenough's Guards or Co. I of the Second N.Y. Volunteer Infantry in dress uniform and greeted by the guns of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Co. under the command of President Peabody of the Brandon Paint Co. (I think this was on the west side of the bar). The Fort Ann Band was also present and played "Banks of the Wabash." Judge Lillie delivered an hour's address of welcome.

E. P. Newcomb (Secretary-treasurer of the N.Y. and Lake Champlain Transportation Co.) was the head of the reception committee. The Admiral replied that he knew Whitehall through The Whitehall Times and Hon. H. G. Burleigh. He complimented the railroad company for the beautiful depot (erected in 1892). He then went to John Nichol's depot restaurant to eat a sandwich and custard. Mr. Nichols wanted him to stay and hear the gramophone play "White Cockade" but the Admiral

wanted to see the canal. Landlord Donohue of the Arlington hotel presented him with cigars and he caught the Hall House bus downtown. (The hotels had two horse buses that met the trains).

Along the route the Admiral admired the scenery of the village. When he saw Ryan's Boatyard (about where the playground shoreline is) he said he would like to build a fleet for use on Lake Champlain in case of trouble with China (Chinese immigrants had entered the United States illegally via Lake Champlain).

Dewey left the bus at the corner of Williams and Saunders and went to Samuel Griswold's store where he picked up a copy of The Whitehall Times and several comic books, among them a copy of the Whitehall Chronicle (Editorial barbs were constantly exchanged between the editors of the papers). Editor Tefft of the Chronicle invited him to a musical in the evening for the benefit of the hospital and library. The Admiral remarked that he was disappointed that a place like Whitehall had neither of these but he thought the streets under a Democrat were in fine shape

The Admiral evidently crisscrossed the streets or the reporter just named places of business as he thought of them. The next visit was to John O'Neil's on Canal Street (a bottling establishment) for a glass of Seal of Pennsylvania spring water. He had supper at the Hall House ""(on Williams Street) and afterwards was entertained by Post Tanner at the G.A.R. rooms where he addressed the veterans.

He played a game of "Caroline" with Dr. Joslin in the Whitehall club. He bought one of King's and Warner's talking neckties. He went to Matthew's drug store on Williams Street and was struck for a dozen tickets from some boys. He bought a straw hat from Pecor and Dunn's clothing store, a baby carriage at Doren's hardware (east side of Canal), a rake and garden tools at Wood and Hotchkiss' new store (just built at the corner of Division and Canal).

He said he could not resist bargains in low prices (but how did he carry them?) He admired the progress of the new armory being built and the YMCA (south of the present Knights of Columbus building. The YMCA had a library). He was astonished that there was no fire protection for Around the Mountain and was interested in the silk mills.

Mr. Peabody's Artillery Company escorted him to Chief Francis' yacht "Washita" for a trip to Ticonderoga. He left the slip amid a great display of fireworks. For a "dream" visit to Whitehall, it could be almost ?????????

The Whitehall Independent December 12, 1984

Hail Storm - 1884 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

George Clemons of Dresden spun this yarn. He was the station agent at Chubb's Dock on Lake Champlain. He stated that a barrel sitting under his eaves spout was filled to overflowing with hail stones during a shower, 25 July. He used some to freeze six

gallons of ice cream and the un-melted hail remained in the barrel from that Wednesday to the next Tuesday.

The Whitehall Times
November 27, 1975

Skene's Treasure? - November 1875
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A mystery was disclosed on Skene Mountain when Mr. Renois was clearing ground around his house and Judge Potter was making use of the soil to grade Mountain Terrace grounds. A well four feet in diameter was discovered, partly filled with debris. The usual stories of Skene's buried treasure were circulated — but, Philip Skene was not at his home when it was taken and did not flee to Canada after hiding treasure; nor could his family who had been captured by the New England forces.

The Whitehall Times
June ?, 1975

June 1875
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

At "Nigger Hollow" in the north part of Putnam, the N.Y. & Canada Railroad roadbed sank in the swamp pit. Load after load of dirt was dumped but the road bed continued to disappear. Old canal boats were sunk and long timbers put on top. Still the bed sank. Mr. Wilkins of The Whitehall Times explained that the great sea serpent of Lake Champlain killed in 1873 in that vicinity by Hon Charles and General Barret has crawled to that place before dying and that the carcass had been underlying the railroad bed.

In this vicinity Philip Skene's sister Elizabeth owned 350 acres of land. On it were two dwelling houses kept by a couple of Skene's Negro slaves. Doubtless this is the source of the name that is still sometimes used for this land.

One of the most beautiful places at this season of the year where one could obtain the most charming views of natural scenery as well as feast upon pure color was Death Rock.

The Whitehall Times
January 25, 1975

Whitehall's 1875 Flying Saucer
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

On Saturday evening 12 June a bright luminous object was observed in the heavens over our village. Knots of people assembled on street corners, door steps, and bridges, watching the object. It would remain stationary for a while, then, as if trying to catch something, it would sway to right and left. Occasionally it would shoot upwards and dive behind a small cloud, where it would remain for a few moments. Many wondered what the singular object was. Some thought it a meteor that was undecided whether to drop down and smash a hole on some rooftop, or again ascend to unfathomable abyss. Some thought it a planet that had been off on a 'bust' and straying below the clouds had lost its reckoning and was dodging about for a hole through which it could return again to its well trodden path.

One man who had just returned from the west was stating "that the queer object was a big grasshopper from the West that was looking about with a lantern for something to 'chaw.'" One young fellow, as he stood holding a fair one by the waist, was heard to whisper, 'Yes, love, how like the Star of Bethlehem it is our guiding star that smiles down upon our plighted troth of true hearts with but a single soul and two thoughts which beat as one.

"Fiddlesticks, John Henry," was the reply, "tain't nothing but a big lightning bug up in a balloon." There were opinions divided concerning the object, when a of a sudden the bright body began descending rapidly and touched the earth, when at a distance was heard the voice of a juvenile exclaiming: "Here you youngster, you don't take your dirt paws off that 'ere kite am blow out the taller candle in that paper lanterns, I'll smash yer jaw."

See previous article above for relevance to below – June 1975 kb

After the New York and Canada Railroad was completed in 1875 a section of the roadbed in the northern part of the Town of Putnam kept sinking. This condition was not immediately corrected by dumping dirt, old canal boats, long timbers and stone into the swampy area.

This section was called "Nigger Hollow." Another name for this Point Katherine was "Nigger Marsh" for on this piece of land Philip Skene erected two houses that were attended by a couple of his slaves. It was a resting place in the transportation of his goods along the lake, especially the ore from the Cheever Mines.

This condition of the road gave Editor another opportunity to bring up his sea serpent tale that he had written two years before. His explanation: When the sea serpent was dispatched in the lake by a group of scientists with General Barrett, from the steamboat **Mollyreaux**, he disappeared in the waters. No carcass was ever found and readers had scoffed at Wilkins' story. Now he declared he was avenged. Since serpents do not die until sundown of the day they are killed, this one had worked its way under "Nigger Hollow" marsh before expiring. The carcass underlay 40 feet of the new road

bed and Wilkins asked what in the name of common sense but his majesty was raising the deuce with the roadbed.

The Whitehall Times
July 25, 1974

Dresden Mountain Creature - 1874
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

We have heard of the Lake Champlain sea serpent but what about this creature observed in the Dresden Mountain area described in The Whitehall Times of 15 July 1874 by A. R. Meadow and J. W. Carter who were out hunting.

"The creature's body was about the size of a water spaniel in circumference, six feet in length and covered with short fine, flesh-colored shining coat. It had a tail all of ten feet long, at the end of which there were two prongs like the tines of a pitchfork, each of which were at least one foot in length and one-half inch in diameter, tapering to points which seemed to be like the claws of a bear. The head was large with two large yellow eyes, standing out from each side like a lobster's. On top of the head between the eyes was a dark fleshy looking horn, which pointed forward, occasionally moving sideways as the animal turned either way. The feet of which there were four were large, probably web-footed, which showed that the animal was of amphibious origin.

The most singular part of the beast was that it possessed two long arms, which extended out from the shoulders certainly 15 feet each way. These were cream colored, about three inches in diameter, while at the ends of them radiated several smaller arms, each about 15 inches in length and of a blood red color. As the animal ran swiftly, it gave sharp prolonged whines resembling the piteous wail of an infant troubled with colic."

The animal was said to have disappeared into an opening between two rocks from which the arms reached out and seized the dog of the hunters. All efforts of aid called for the purpose could find no trace of the animal.

Was this a story to encourage or discourage tourism into the Adirondacks with the coming of the railroad extension north then under construction? Unlike the Skene coffin story it didn't gain credence and grow in detail.

The Whitehall Times
July 11, 1974

April Fool in July – July 1874
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

W. A. Wilkins had a sense of humor that sometimes seemed to run wild. The following was a July, 1874, announcement of the Fourth of July celebration. I have changed it to read in the past tense, as the Fourth has gone.

1776 AGIN 1874 ,
Let the Eagle
Engage in Chimorea
Gr-r-r and Sell-abration ,
We will celebrate if it
Takes a leg!
\$40,000 FOR GUNPOWDER,
NITROGLYCERINE &
GINGERBREAD
HALELOOJER!
ECHLORFORM
OMNIBUS
THE ORDER ;
OF PERSESSION

The citizens of Whitehall having a great veneration for those '76 fellers, now deceased, invite the patriotic element of the world in doing the correct thing for the day of Independence, which commenced its career in 1776, afoot and alone.

The day opened by the rising of sun, including the sons and daughters of Whitehall, West Haven and Dresden. As Old Sol developed her snoot over Skene's Mountain, a cannon, captured by the Dutch when they took Holland, loaded with congressional speeches thundered its mellifluous notes — 3 months after date — over the town and country. The rocks overhanging the village were whitewashed for the occasion, the cobwebs brushed from the shrubbery, and the streets of the village sprinkled by Frazier's cart with a decoction of Ugh! de Cologne, and Adirondack mineral spring water.

After booming of the cannon was over — the left — the - citizens, firemen, churches, societies and canal drivers congregated on J. P. Adam's land, above the depot, for the purpose of getting up a puss-session.

The Temperance Organization formed with their right bower — resting upon the railroad water tank. The Anti-Temperance element reformed with their left bower, resting upon the present license law until next year.

Church societies and organizations formed a hollow square oh empty stomach's, each denomination following the particular church building, which was drawn by 40 horses in the procession.

The fire department was on duty with their engines charged with, soda water and ginger ale, which, they furnished to the fellows and their gals free gratis for nothing.

The common scoundrels of the town occupied hand carts and wheelbarrows, following their church societies. Little Sunday school children joined the Infantry in Arms. The dry goods merchants and their clerks shouldered their yardsticks, and when they got to their own front yard — stuck there. The grocery men organized a battalion of black horse cavalry upon mules, dried beef and lively cheese.

Lawyers and legal gentlemen appeared in law suits, trimmed with red tape. Doctors and undertakers rode in hearses, with a driver pulling the ribbons over a pale horse while the man that usually "gathers them in" "passed" with a handful of spades.

Several young ladies personated the Goudy's of Liberty.

Three ancient ladies, over 100 years old each good measure, were grouped upon a cart in the attitude of three Gray-Siss, each Siss being grayer than a rat. '

Citizens then fell into the line, but the committee hoped that citizens would keep sober, and not fall into the canal at the same time.

Gideon's Band having been discharged by the 43d Congress furnished the agony to march by. When the gun gave off at 11 a.m., the procession went off too, — and stayed.

The line of march was necessarily limited, and was arranged viz:

Whitehall to Plattsburgh, Pittsburgh to Burlington, Burlington to Troy, Troy to Schenectady, Schenectady to Fort Edward, brought up at Whitehall, again in time for the fireworks in the evening. Over \$29,000 was expended for the fireworks. The principal pieces were as follows:

1st. A piece of burning punk, emblematical of the late session of Congress.

2nd. An ear of corn roasting over a kerosene lamp, emblematical of Cornwallis's surrender.

3d. Fire of patriotism — a thing of the past — in fact it -will give the light of other days.

4th. The old oak-hen ; bucket, representing the bald-headed American bird, picking acorns from the top of the tree of Liberty now so well played out.

5th. George Washington, a youth cutting down his father's cherry tree.

A little canal driver personated, the unfortunate George. The tree used was a whiffle-tree. N.B. The youth could not lie.

6th. To conclude with a large bond fire, the bonds were Whitehall Railroad bonds and were furnished by the D&H Canal Co.

All were invited to attend Skenesboro awakened,

By Order Com.

Travel

The Whitehall Independent Date Unknown

Travel in Earlier Times Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

This is a story of travel in the time of the packet boats on the canal. Can you imagine going to New York to buy books? Mr. Brugman of Pawlet, Vermont, had begun to study law. He wanted to buy his law books in New York City and started to go by foot. He had just left the village when he was overtaken by an empty tin peddler's cart. He rode from there to North Granville where he got a ride with a man riding alone to Whitehall. They drove onto a bridge just as a packet boat was going under. The traveler jumped out of the wagon over the edge of the bridge onto the boat. This was the time of the rivalry between the two packet lines, the Red Bird line and the Seven Day line. On account of this rivalry he was carried to Troy for twelve and a half cents.

Our traveler then went on a steam boat to New York for fifty cents. He came back the same way and over the canal to Comstock's Landing, the first way to spell that place because of Peter Comstock's business interests there. He got there in the night and went home to Pawlet on foot. These books came on the canal by freight and by stage to Granville and from there by stage to Pawlet. This was the time of no railroad and no express companies.

The Whitehall Times November 15, 1979

Rochester to Whitehall in 1833 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The distance between Rochester and Whitehall can be covered by car in one day. Not so in 1833. The Erie Canal was about, eight years old and the Champlain Canal but a little older between Fort Edward and Whitehall. The railroad from Albany to Saratoga had been opened in 1832 and the cars were still a curiosity.

When Mrs. Mason G. Smith from Perry was visiting her kin in Whitehall she sent a letter home to her husband 18 May 1833 describing the trip: "I have arrived here at last, safe and soundly— although I have passed through perils by sea and by land. You have heard of the failure of the canal and perhaps (Want) to know what had become of me."

"Well, to commence at Rochester — you left me in 'fine company.' We were stowed pretty thick in the cabin during the rain, which lasted four days and four nights, and had at that time reached the breach in the canal. (A breach meant a break in the canal bank that allowed the water to drain out and leave the boats high and dry.) It was four

miles this side of Little Falls. This was a sad disaster for us. It was thought the boats would have to stay there for weeks at the least."

"When the travelers had given up finding a way to reach Fort Plain, they decided to cross the Mohawk. One of the company found a man who would take them there by hayrack, the only vehicles to hold them and the baggage which included eleven children. The distance was only ten miles, roads very bad over the rocks and through the water, but we took it all kindly, hoping soon to cross the river and find better traveling. But to our consternation when we arrived in sight of the bridge the flats were covered with water ten to twelve feet deep. We learned that some had attempted to cross in a log canoe and had upset, wet the ladies, and lost the trunks."

"There was nothing to do but wait the moving of the water. The next day they I ventured across in the canoe. From that spot they were able to go by wagon to Johnstown and in another one went I on to Saratoga."

"I was left with one woman in like condition with myself without a protector. We were told the stage would go out in four hours, so we washed and 'smarted up' a little and walked out to see the springs and other wonders of the place. We walked until we were weary, then sat by the windows and saw the cars come in from Albany on the railroad — two cars larger than stage coaches filled with passengers, and their baggage drawn by two small horses. That is truly a labor saving machine. We then took dinner, paid our fare to Whitehall and started, arriving at the bridge at Sandy Hill about dark. The bridge is injured so much by the freshet it is not deemed safe to come over with the coach, and we accordingly dismounted and walked over the bridge and up a long hill to the village. The baggage was drawn over in a one-horse wagon drawn by men. After staying there an hour we started for Fort Ann, ten miles, arrived there about midnight, and paid two shillings for a bed to sleep on the rest of the night. In the morning we went on board of the packet bound for Whitehall, came six miles on that when, it was ascertained that the towpath was so much injured we could come no further in that way; so up came the old coach again, and we mounted on and into that again, about fifteen in number. When with about a mile of the destined port we met another coach and we again had to dismount and exchange coaches. At last we arrived at Johnson's Hotel and I had the good fortune to find brother Walter there. I got into his wagon and after getting well drenched with a shower of rain, arrived at sister Mary's house."

Canal boat, hayrack, long canoe, wagon, stage coach, walking, packet, stage coach, wagon— from Rochester to Whitehall!! But not a drop of gasoline was used.

Does anyone have a picture of a packet boat or know where Johnson's Hotel is?

**The Whitehall Independent
October 17, 1988**

**A Packet Trip West in 1834
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Packet boats were the canal boats that carried passengers on the "Big Ditch" from Whitehall to Buffalo in the thirties to the fifties when the railroad put them out of

business. This is a letter from a passenger who made a trip on the Champlain and Erie Canals.

July 13, 1834

Dear Annie,

I have not forgotten my engagement and will endeavor to fulfill it as far as I am capable. Five weeks have elapsed since I last saw you, and my eyes have witnessed many eventful things: and will now relate some of these particulars. I left home Tuesday morning; at 11 o'clock I was in Fort Ann, and waited there very patient, until the boat came along Thursday afternoon (I think she left at Comstocks Landing as it was called then). You must think the time seems long; not a person there I ever saw before - except Jacob and Lucy Clark; thankful would not wait but took an earlier very crowded boat. But we overtook them Friday and they came with us, as it was the last boat. On it was Mrs. Harrington an old acquaintance - was going to Brockport, and I was pleased to see a face I had seen before,

There were 7 young ladies on the boat most of the way, and we passed the time very pleasantly, much more so than I had expected.

There were 100 and 50 passengers, 30 of them children, as it was fair most of the time we could stay on deck. It is slow sailing on a canal but pleasant with good company. Our Capt. was a fine fellow and I liked the cook. Mrs. H ---- was acquainted with her. There is a great deal to be seen, more than I could write on a quire of paper. After we left Fort Ann we sailed to two and one half miles from Troy. We crossed the Mohawk to a place called Junction, or 9 locks, where the canals meet. Two gentlemen invited 7 ladies to walk and see the Cohoes Falls, a short district from the canal; we were fearful the boat might leave us, but they said "no" there were several locks to pass through and we should have sufficient time, and delightful it was with pleasant sidewalks of iron and marble. There is always bitter with the sweet - it was almost dark; we hurried along but the boat had left; one girl lost her bag; such confusion - the gentlemen said "Wait" and let them look for it. We were not willing but went on as fast as possible a distance of one or two miles and were once more on the boat. The Capt. expressed joy to see us return.

Where the canals meet we returned and came west. Next morning was in Schenectady - a small place - we passed many handsome places. Utica we passed in the night. The city of Rochester is the most splendid. While the boat stopped a number of us walked out, into the Rochester House. It is 6 stories high. One went to the top and saw a beautiful prospect of the city. (Continued on the lake).

The Whitehall Independent
August 1, 1984

Traveling in the Nineteenth Century
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In the latter part of the nineteenth century, traveling was a lengthy adventure. This reported trip would take a few hours today from Hartford, Vermont, and back again.

But the route for a family outing was thus: From Hartford to Rutland by horses; to Fair Haven by "electrics"; from there by train to Whitehall and on to Ticonderoga; from Ticonderoga back to Leicester Junction, Vermont, and on to Vergennes; by boat to Westport; down Lake Champlain on the Vermont to Burlington; and on home to Hartford on the Vermont Central. Parents and two children journeyed five days at the cost of \$72.54.

Whitehall was a junction for transportation routes. Young people in early days had to make their own opportunities in the world. This is the story of a fifteen year old boy, small for his age. He was the oldest of nine children and at that age it was time for him to go out and find his own living. Opportunities were reported to be good in New York State. His mother presented him with a bundle of fried cakes and a small Bible. His father took him to the foot of the east side of the Green Mountains and he set off on foot through the woods in fall of the year to seek his fortune.

Just at dusk he reached Rutland from where a stage ran to Whitehall, 25 miles; to connect with a canal boat to Troy at eight o'clock in the morning. Asking about passage on the stage he found it would cost 75 cents but he had not a penny. He slept in the stage room and started for Whitehall at midnight. He ran downhill and walked uphill. Between Hydeville and Fair Haven he heard the stage coming. In spite of his ardent wish, the horses galloped by dragging the great stage coach. It was seven miles to Whitehall and the last mile he ran all the way, arriving seven minutes before the canal boat started. The captain allowed him to sleep in a bunk on a shelf and so he reached Troy, the land of opportunity. Through hard work with hard masters, but with determination, thrift, and honesty he worked his way up in the world, becoming a well-to-do entrepreneur.

The Whitehall Times September 11, 1983

Whitehall 1886 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A visit to the Statue of Liberty

On 25 October 1886, 57 tickets were sold at \$3 each in Whitehall for a trip on the D&H Canal Company people's line of steamers. Eleven passenger cars carried 700 people from surrounding towns, preceding the regular train by a few minutes. Every berth was occupied. A few people sat up all night rather than occupy cots. One lady sold her stateroom and took a berth, making profit enough to cover her whole ticket. Pier 41 was the point for dispensation at 8 a.m. on Thursday.

The visitors spread to various points of interest, some went to the Statue of Liberty, this being its 100th anniversary. Some went to Central Park, some to Philadelphia, and some to the monkey house to see Mr. Crouley, a famous chimpanzee of the day. After a day in the city, eating at outstanding restaurants, and visiting with old friends, the excursionists returned to Whitehall on Friday, tired perhaps but feeling elated at a change.

The inauguration of the Statue in 1886 differed in some respects from its 100th celebration. A main feature was a huge parade which started formation at 9 a.m. at 58th Street and Fifth Street at 10 a.m. President Cleveland's carriage started for the reviewing stand at 24th Street. Preceded by the old guard, the carriages contained the President's Cabinet. Following were 250 police, the United States Naval Brigade, the 7th, 8th, 12th, 11th and the 1st regiments and the French societies, numbering 2500 men. Governors of states and mayors of neighboring cities were in attendance.

At Bedloes Island the program consisted of music, prayer by Rev. R.S. Stowe, D. D. remarks by M. de Lesseps in behalf of the Franco-American Union; and the presentation address by the Honorable William M. Evasts. Then followed the unveiling of the Statue with a great savor from all the guns in the harbor. President Grover Cleveland accepted the gift in behalf of the people of the United States. The commemorative address was given by Honorable Chauncey M. Depew. The benediction was pronounced by Bishop Potter. The crowds returned to the city. In the evening the Statue was illuminated and fire works burned on all the islands in the harbor.

This seems tame compared to the 100th anniversary but could a parade home been held in the city this year with the great numbers of people? But could the patriotic enthusiasm been any less in that first sight of the Lady?

Water Supply & Springs

**The Whitehall Times
April 14, 1983**

**The Water Supply - 1873
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Hans Klunder, when he made a study of the Town and Village in the 1960's, declared he was amazed at the casual way in which Whitehalls handled their water system. In other places that he surveyed the water supply was the most crucial problem. He was astonished to see in Whitehall that water spouted from holes in water lines with no one seeming concerned. Water is one of Whitehall's finest assets.

This abundance of water was not always in existence. From 1873 the Whitehall Times editor had advocated having a good supply. In 1883 the newspaper sounded exultant, for there was a prospect of having such a supply. The lawyers were all for it. Judge J. S. Potter made one of the most logical and earnest speeches of his life for it, declared the paper. Supervisor Spencer was eager for it. Mr. Hill was emphatic in his declaration that he did "not wish to be poisoned with impure water or imperfect sewerage."

On Tuesday 5 February Whitehall voted on the question of a water tax and elections. Two ballot boxes were set up one for water taxpayers and one for non-taxpayers. The required majority was attained for the results showed 123 votes for arid 59 against.

The Glens Falls Republican said: "Whitehall people are happy over the prospect of obtaining a supply of water; they hope to .improve their dinketite."

Horace W. Finch wrote an open letter saying the water supplied to the village should come from Root Pond (I haven't found where that is) where it had a fountain head of 400 feet above the village. The main pipe a foot in diameter could bring enough water to run all machinery then in use. It could suspend and put in use in rapid rotation a centrifugal wheel weighing 45 tons. If water is obtained from a high head, no hand or steam engine or other water power would be necessary.

Members of the Board of Trustees and new trustees elected a water commissioner and they visited Root Pond. It was much smaller than stated and the distance to get the water to Whitehall would be nine miles. The commissioner decided to examine all other sources before deciding on a location.

Two weeks later the commissioner had examined them and decided the best supply would be that of Long Pond. There seemed to be an adequate supply although the distance and rocky excavations necessary could be objections. The distance would be about five miles. The head of pressure would give a valuable water power as well as a water supply for household purposes. But the commissioner would look further before a final decision.

The Whitehall Independent January 30, 1985

Water Works - 1884 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In 1884 Canal Street extended along present Main Street and Broadway. In this location of the water mains laid in that year the word street was omitted. Water pipes extended along the main streets and along the side streets were of different sizes.

12 inch; from the pumping station to Canal, South of School, 9338 feet; and along Williams to the foot bridge, 1050 feet; 10 inch on Canal from post office (in Arcade Building) to corner of Adams to reservoir below Smith Pond, 3680 feet; 8 inch: on Canal from corner of Adams to the end of the pipe south, 1015 feet; on Canal from the post office to the end of pipe north, 390 feet. This next would be the point where Church began, Canal to Saunders, 660 feet; on Saunders from Church to end of pipe, 1740 feet.

6 inch; On Poultney from Williams to Mountain, 850 feet; from Williams along Wheeler, 680 feet and along McCotter 610 feet. On West between School and Saunders, 1054 feet; from Canal along School to end of pipe, 935 feet; along Gilmore, 940 feet; along Boardman to Smith, 820 feet; along Adams, 1190 feet; along First Avenue, 1500 feet; along Second Avenue between Canal and Jalet, 1290 feet; along Third Avenue between Canal and Vaughn, 390 feet.

4 inch; On Mountain from Poultney to American Alley, 1860; on Potter to Wheeler, 810; on Skene to end of pipe. 1600 feet; on Division from Canal to Church, 290; on Saunders from Canal to Church, 270. These next two lines are puzzles: On West Street from Saunders to Church 750 feet and west and north of the schoolhouse from

Saunders to West, 535. It could mean from Saunders along Blount to Bell School at corner of Blount and Lamb and then along Lamb back to West. Continuing the 4 inch: On Lafayette from Queen to School, 1090; on Smith from Boardman to Queen, 270; on Vaughn from First Avenue to Second Avenue 305 feet. Besides these lines there were pipes laid to 49 hydrants at 20 feet each.

The contractors Miller & Knight kept from 100 to 150 workers employed. The weather was favorable and there were no disasters or drawbacks. The Trustees were fortunate in disposing of the bonds which were to run 10, 20, and 30 years. A month later they could not have been placed without a discount.

Hydrants were placed at every street corner and in case of fire there was perfect protection. The water could be thrown from a hydrant over any building in the Village. The furnishing of clean water into every household was a relief and a luxury. It was suggested that some public demonstration be held to mark the introduction of pure water to the Village.

The Whitehall Times August 19, 1882

The Water Supply 1882? or 1882? Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Whitehall's water supply was often a topic in The Whitehall Times. It stated in 23 Aug. that the village was greatly in need of an adequate water supply for household use. "We have depended on well, springs, old pump logs and a babbling brook long enough. A system, of water can be constructed at a comparatively small cost. Robert Brett, water commissioner, says there is a watershed enough on the hill above Adams' pond to supply a village of double our population. There's a natural water basin and water can be stored for use during the summer season. All the watershed for a long distance passes away through the gulch that empties through our village and by making adequate reservoirs the supply running to waste can be secured for use. The construction of water works must soon be realized in this place. Had Whitehall possessed a good water works long ere this there would have been several shirt and collar factories located here. The need for water and for shirt and collar business is one of the most imperative, and The Times would like to hear the impressions of our citizens upon the subject."

The Whitehall Independent
January 30, 1985

1887

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

WATER WORKS

Whitehall's water supply has come from various sources over the years. In earlier times it was from springs. Then came a combination of wells and springs that had to be paid for. This proved unsatisfactory to the citizens. Then in late 1884 a water project was completed, although there was a hard core of people who objected to anything new.

In 1877 Peter Hogan, an engineer, was hired to make a search of available sources. Business failures at this time delayed the project until 1883 when the Village Board revived the plan and constituted themselves as a Water Board with the power to act. These were those early businessmen of the Village - E. A. Martin, George Knight, E. E. Bascom, S. K. Griswold, Willis G. C. Wood. They were an active minority that immediately set to work.

In a few weeks several proposals were presented and the project was let to D. M. Greene of Troy for \$77,000. He and his associates began work at once. A reservoir was constructed below South Pond. At this point a dam 430 feet long and 16 feet high was constructed above its surface. This flowed over about one and a half acres and gave storage of 3,000,000 gallons. The elevation was 260 feet above the canal. The reservoir stored surplus water pumped to it each day and gave a supply not only at night but enough to supply daytime pumping from five to ten days.

A well 40 feet in diameter was sunk on Cooke's farm at a depth of 18 feet below the surface of Wood Creek. A timber curbing two feet thick was built to a height of ten feet and the rest about 18 feet was built of brick, the same thickness. The coping extended above the high water mark, about two and a half feet, to which the surrounding ground was raised.

The pump had a capacity of 1,500,000 gallons daily or 75,000 gallons every twelve hours. It was thought that in a dry season it would be used only 36 hours in a week to give double estimated supply. The water in the well was taken from East Creek (Mettawee) and analysis proved it to be soft and pure. The engine and boiler had a capacity of 60 horse power. A twelve inch main extended from the pumping station to Canal Street south of School Street, 9,328 feet. Other pipes were laid. It is interesting to know where they were as over the years pieces have been dug up.

The Whitehall Independent
November 18, 1987

The Adirondack Spring
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The location of the Adirondack Spring has long been a seeming mystery. Because of the water that used to collect in the low part of Broadway in front of Scott's Furniture Store, I thought it might be in that vicinity. But that probably was caused from drainage from Potash Creek that runs from West Mountain, underground part way into Chapin Alley.

The obituary of Thomas J. Wrangham, who owned Whitehall Marble Works states that he discovered the spring but does not give its location. The map of 1866 does not show it. It must have been in the 1860's for the village record of 1869 shows that the Adirondack Spring Company was notified that a stoop or piazza, in front of its building was in the highway and should be removed. The owner refused to remove it and the street commissioners were ordered to do so and report at the next meeting - but that ended any mention in the minutes.

Child's Gazetteer of 1871 states that the owner of the Spring had erected a fine building over it for the combined uses of an office, resort for patrons of the spring, and as a bottling establishment.



Johnson's History of Washington County said the water possessed medicinal properties similar to those of Saratoga and the Company was doing a considerable business in bottling it for shipment.

Records of its analysis are in State reports. It was deemed especially good for kidney ailments. So far I have found no references for people coming to Whitehall "to take the water" as they did in Westport for its Adirondack Spring, staying at a rooming house especially for them, and for Saratoga Waters. There was, however, Union Hotel just across Canal Street from the spring.

The water was bottled in dark green glass, blob topped containers with the words Whitehall Adirondack Spring in raised letters. Some people of Whitehall have possession of some of these bottles.

Finally, the location of the spring has appeared in some of Holden's papers on Whitehall. In 1912 he wrote that the Adirondack Spring, then long disused, was in the cellar of Helen Knight's home. The house afterwards was the home of Fred Gibbs. In 1912 it was filled with rubbish. As it, was in the center of the Village, it had become contaminated and was a health hazard. This was the second house above Ryan's coal shed, as seen in the picture.

The Whitehall Times July 14, 1988

Springs 1874 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Adirondack Spring: In July 1874 bath rooms were fitted in the upper part of the Adirondack Spring building for bathing purposes. A bath in this spring water was supposed to be one of the greatest luxuries a person could enjoy. It brought a buoyancy and an elasticity that no other water could equal. There was such a spring in Westport at the same time. The virtues of the water had never been appreciated by the citizens of Whitehall. In addition to its medical qualities it was the best hair dressing in use. As a beverage it was as stimulating to the system as wine, without the ????????

The Whitehall Independent November 16, 1983

Water Supply – October 1883 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Adirondack Spring property was presented at a tax sale. It was bounded on the west by Canal Street, on the east by Champlain Canal, on the south by Knight Murray Coal Yard lot, and on the north by the former Walker lot.

The Whitehall Times
April 2, 1981

Water & Sewage – March 1881
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A then and now in sewage affairs. In late February, a sewage tunnel was dug from the First National bank (Howie Osborne's building) and Anderson Hall to the south under Canal (Main) Street without disturbing the roadway except at the ends of the passage. The men worked underneath; the dirt being taken out by a gang of men. The work had to be done at this time of year as in the summer time the water would have filled the excavation.

The Whitehall Times
June 25, 1981

Water Supply – June 1881
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Villagers today do not have to worry about wells at their homes. But in 1881 it was a problem. C. B. Pike, Blount Street, drove 21 feet through clay and quicksand to have water through a 13-inch pipe. Right near him on Saunders street, T. S. Wrangham and Taylor Manville found it at 22 feet; James Williamson, further south on West Street, found it at 26 feet. These were auger wells. On the east side of the creek there were flow wells at the Baptist Church, H. R. Wait's and A .P. Cook, in line south from McCotter Street.

The Whitehall Independent
July 4, 1984

Water Works – June 1884
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Water Works Factory was being constructed by A. P. Hopson, carpenter and architect and George Goodale, mason worker.

The Whitehall Times
November 25, 1982

Water Power – November 1882
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A new dam was tested 6 November at the falls. The old dam had been carried away by the current and high water. The power of the new dam exceeded the Water Power Company's expectations and the volume was greater. Consensus projected that the village would see a boom in industries.

The Whitehall Independent
July 4, 1984

Water Works – June 1884
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Adam Miller of Miller and Knight, contractor for the new water works, came to town armored with twenty laborers. They began work at the Burleigh Corps range and at excavating for laying pipes under the canal just south of the first change bridge. There would be work for 150 men. The twenty Italian workers he took on all his contracts, everywhere. It would be impossible to get enough workers in Whitehall as the hills and streets would need a large force for all that was needed to be done, he said. His workers were housed in Charles Chapin's building.

The Whitehall Independent
December 12, 1984

Water Works Company – Summer 1884
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

By 28 July the new building of the Water Power was looming up in vast proportions. It was very large and could be capable of giving employment to many people when finished in a few weeks. This building made the central portion of the later old silk mill.

The Whitehall Independent
March 19, 1986

Springs – 1886
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Quite often there is a controversial question to be bandied about in a village. This time it was the water supply on Williams Street at the site of Mosher's spring near the present Williams Street School. Two complaints had been made. One was that of "a Poor Man" about cutting off the water supply at the lamp post near the spring. He claimed the President of the Village who had plenty of water for his family was depriving the less favored classes of a drink of pure water. The second complaint was from the "Thirsty Traveler" who claimed that poor people were being deprived of a refreshing beverage that should be free to all.

It seems that President Spencer said boys were always playing with the hydrant; the post is thereby a nuisance. The Editor of the paper took up the matter to ask why, if this was so, the well hadn't been closed up. There was only a little stream of water flowing from the lamp post that ran off and was carried into the creek. The boys could have been controlled by arresting two or three as an example. The President had suggested that the lamp post be removed and placed in front of Father McDonnell's church. He in turn said if it was a nuisance to Mr. Spencer, he didn't want to be a party to endure it.

The Whitehall Independent
November 20, 1983

Water Power Company – November 1883
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

There was more discussion of the Water Power Company. The new building (It became the first part of the silk mill) was on a solid foundation. The new flume was substantial and capable of conveying a large quantity of water. The widening of the road "Around the Mountain" would give increased width. Several different shirt factory representatives had visited this place but for lack of water power went elsewhere. The company had ordered a water wheel which would be placed under the bridge from which Irwin and Wilson, woodworkers, would be supplied with power to run their mill. The new water power mill would be finished in the spring. Laborers on the project were earning \$500 each week.

The Whitehall Times
February 20, 1986

Water Supply – 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Mosher's Spring Water was analyzed and found in doubtful sanitary quality by G. E. Williams of Schenectady. This spring was one of the early sources of drinking water located on the southern section of Williams Street School building.

Weather

The Whitehall Times
October 19, 1972

“1806 and Froze to Death”
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

We've heard the expression "1806 and froze to death. An old newspaper tells of that year in northern New York and Vermont which would include the Whitehall area.

January was so mild that fires were allowed to go out. There were very few cold days. February was the same with many warm and spring like days. March was windy at first, "a small lion that went out like an innocent lamb."

April came in warm but gradually was colder until by May 1 there was plenty of snow and ice. Tree buds were frozen and ice formed on the streams. Corn was planted again and again to no avail. By the last of the month everything had been killed by frost.

June was the coldest month. Snow was 10 inches thick. All summer the wind blew from the north with snow and ice. Mothers knit thick stockings and mittens and farmers worked on the roads bundled in overcoats. In this way they worked out their taxes. 17 June brought a heavy fall of snow Farmers lost their flocks of sheep and some were frozen looking for the animals. One ingenious farmer with plenty of help built large fires around his fields every night and had the only corn crop in the region. 4 July had windows covered with ice and what Indian corn in some places had survived now froze.

August was the worst month of all in north Europe and New England. Thousands of people would have perished if it had not been for fish and wild game.

Clarence Holden, in his Local History Sketches, found some stories of Whitehall. A little girl of seven was sent to the garden to pick green currants in the snow because a snow storm had fallen after the currants had formed and it was plain that there was no use waiting for the fruit to ripen.

Correction October 26, 1973: "1800 and froze to death was the expression commonly used about the cold spell of that era and the year of the cold summer was 1816. I made an error in my typed copy to the paper." This is from D.B. M.'s notes.

The Whitehall Times

June 26, 1980

Weather 1833

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The first week in June had 105 degree weather.

A mirage on Lake Champlain recalled one of 20 August 1883. When a long narrow black cloud rose in the west just before night, the weather was very hot and remarkably clean. Lake Champlain seemed to rise and widen out. Hills on either side became islands while Burlington and all other points south and buildings on Lake Champlain were clearly seen in this area.

The Whitehall Times

February 2, 1978

Weather – January 1878

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Jan. 1 a game of croquet was played on the grass grounds of Thomas Wilson. Mrs. Wilson and Mr. Fowler of New York played against Mrs. E. Hopson and Miss Lulu Lotrace.

Jan. 4, Snow fell to the depth of nine inches.

Jan. 2 was 25 degrees below, zero.

Jan. 9 W. B. Allen had shoveled his sidewalk off seven times. He declared his neighbors should not find fault with his sidewalk.

Jan. 10 the warm breath of the south caused the snow to melt away. Rain fell here that day and the next.

Jan. 12 the thermometer had risen from a low of 25 below to 75 degrees above - that. Just what kind of weather we shall have next is hard to tell.

Jan. 16 the ice men from the south have been here prospecting towards harvesting their crops for the next summer from Lake Champlain

Jan. 23 the Whitehall Mutual Benefit Ice company has let the contract to fill the ice house to J. J. Goodale. He was to begin operations on Jan. 21 but the warm weather put a veto to it. Snow is anxiously looked for by our lumbermen to enable them to cut the usual amount of logs for next season's sawing.

The Whitehall Times
August 28, 1978

Weather – August 1878
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A great thunderstorm occurred 9 August that lasted five minutes, and caused great damage. The flats were covered and crops were ruined. A great display occurred along Whitehall and Rutland railroad on Poultney Street. Of the seven telegraph poles along the way six were struck by a ball lightning.

The Whitehall Times
April 15, 1982

An 1882 Hurricane
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Whitehall has had some wild storms. Here is a hurricane that happened on 27 January 1882. It evidently had two prongs to its force for the east side and the west side of the village. I have added locations according to the Directory of 1892-1893.

"On Friday morning a hurricane swooped down upon the village doing much damage. The roof covering the residence of Joseph Wilson and W. G. C. Wood was taken up by the wind and turned bottom side up, falling partly on McCotter Street and partly in Ambrose Gilligan's garden. It broke the fences and ruined a portion of the hedge and destroyed five handsome trees."

Joseph Wilson was a carpenter and builder. He lived at 44 Williams street on the west side opposite McCotter Street. W. G. C. Wood was a partner in the hardware and furniture firm of Wood and Hotchkiss who later constructed the building on the south corner of Division and Canal streets (Main Street). Mrs. Anna Douglass owned the building at 58 Williams Street, south of Joseph Wilson. Ambrose Gilligan, a business man on Broad Street (North Main), lived on the opposite of the street at 41 Williams. The fence and beautiful elm trees are shown in many early pictures of Whitehall.

"The gale also damaged a large brick building at South Bay belonging to Mrs. Boyd and blew over a barn on the same premises. On Tug Hill it struck Duceau's house in course of construction and destroyed a portion of it."

I suggest this building is the 1796 building still standing at South Bay, at one time used as a tavern, and Mrs. Boyd, the wife of John Boyd, an outstanding man of Whitehall. Tug Hill, the northern section of Saunders Street, at one time was a main road from northern Whitehall to the bay. Travelers went this way to reach the tavern and cross South Bay by boat.

"It blew the ventilators from the chimneys on Father McDonnell's church, tipped over chimneys on the residence of Mrs. George Brett, the Benjamin house on Sixth Street and Mrs. Finnican's."

Our Lady of Angels was Father McDonnell's church at the corner of Boardman and South Canal Street (Broadway) (*This church was razed in 2008 kb*). Mrs. George Brett lived nearby at 52 South Canal Street and Mrs. Elizabeth Benjamin at 8 Sixth Street (Maple Street). Mrs. Finnican lived on South Canal Street.

"It turned over the chimneys on the estate of I. C. Griswold Estate occupied by Mrs. Boprey. The opera house bus was keeled over and trees were uprooted and other damage done."

I. C. Griswold Estate covered a large area of Saunders Street Bridge on Williams Street. His home was 12 Williams Street, now the Isaac C. Griswold Library (*Actual name is Whitehall Free Library kb*). The estate included a tenement house on the site of Marion's Dress Shop, now Knits and Bolts. The opera house occupied the area of the Elks Club.

"It was a fearful gale, and from 8 to 9 a.m. was the scene of great damage in this county. At the residence of George Griswold and A. P Cooke many panes of glass were broken. The wind swept through this section."

Mrs. George Griswold, a widow in 1893, lived at the home at 48 Williams, three doors south of Joseph Wilson. A. P. Cooke, a salesman, lived on the east side of 49 Williams.

"Joseph Wilson began replacing the roof on Friday. By Saturday evening he had the timber all in place and the tin placed over it but not fastened. Sunday morning the wind blew hard again and the tin was blown off, falling between Mr. Wilson's residence and the residence of O. A. Manville. The loss by the blow will be light, falling between Mr. Wilson and Mrs. Anna Douglass who owns the tenement occupied by W. G. C. Wood."

O. A. Manville, a druggist, lived at 42 Williams, north of Joseph Wilson.

The hurricane followed two paths. Coming from the north one path struck at South Bay and moved south as far as present Maple Street. The second one had its path south along Williams Street.

The Whitehall Times May 5, 1983

Whitehall in April 1883 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In the second week of April in Whitehall there was a sea of water. Wood Creek was higher than in the last twelve years. The flats south of the village and the lowlands along the creek were covered. The new dam stood firm and seemed like a small Niagara. There was a fall between the new: and the old dam. The water over the new dam was inches lower than over the old dam. A washout in the old lock undermined the approach from "the bridge to the towpath.

Charley Rich did a thriving business with his skiff ferry above Mud Creek Bridge on the Granville Turnpike. Wood gatherers laid in a large stock of fuel in the way of flotsam of old fences and other material. All ice was removed from the canal. The road between Canal and Williams Streets was under water and people in the houses were cut

off from overland routes. "Spring of 1883 will be marked as one of the kind that resembled the period of Noah."

The Whitehall Times
May 19, 1983

Weather a100 Yeas Ago in May 1883
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Another cold wave has flung its frigid arms around us. The high wind is all that prevented the fruit buds from being blasted. The weather is remarkable and the only inference is that the door of the North Pole needs a new lock.

The Whitehall Times
March 30, 1972

Weather
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Are we due to have this weather this year — following a 50-year cycle or was 1971 February weather the year? A newspaper article in a scrap-book given by Mrs. Bernice Brown has this item:

"Sunday April 19, 1925 came across the champion weather freak of the past 50 years — a 15-inch snowfall accompanied by thunder and lightning, with showers of hail as a sideline. The storm blocked traffic for a day between Whitehall and Fair Haven, where it drifted in spots, but the Whitehall-Glens Falls highway remained open to traffic.

The snowfall in other towns: Glens Falls, 8 inches; Rouses Point, 1; Plattsburgh, 5; Malone, 8; Elizabethtown, 14.

George M, Baker of Whitehall says this town and vicinity experienced a similar snow storm April 15, 1874 — 51 years ago. He was floating logs down South Bay at that time, he says.

Following the 1874 storm the blizzard of 1888 but that was in March and this year's almanac predicts a "late spring"

Scrapbooks are interesting and valuable sources of information. This one referred to has the usual bits of poetry that took the fancy of the first owner, puzzles, odds and ends of world happenings but mainly obituaries and notices of weddings.

The obituaries of earlier years are rare sources of information on people and events. There is genealogy, occupations, location of industries, and even names of race horses. So don't throw away those tattered and loose-leaved old books. They may have just the bit of information one has been seeking, especially when a full file of local newspapers is lacking.

An example in this case is the story of the Wright family that lived in the north part of town in the vicinity of the old White church. Last year searched for information for a person who was writing its story. This scrapbook has a full account of the family, the stone erected on the farm with family names and an account of the burning of the church.

The Whitehall Times **February 19, 1981**

The Weather **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

"Everyone talks about the weather . . ." and the weather this year has certainly given a topic for everyone to talk about. Former Whitehall winters also provided tales of extremes in temperature and storms to be repeated by those who experienced them.

This is a letter sent to the Editor of the Whitehall Times in 1932 but takes us back to 1841: To the Editor of the Times:

In going over some old letters of my father, former governor Alonzo B. Cornell, I found a letter to him, then a lad of 15, from his father, Ezra Cornell, the founder of Cornell University, dated Whitehall, N.Y., January 12, 1841, which closes with this statement: "The thermometer here this morning stood 40 degrees below zero; today, 10 degrees above." My grandfather was at the time building a telegraph line from Troy north, and making his temporary headquarters at Whitehall. Thinking that the comparison of weather conditions in your locality today with those of 58 years ago (from 1932) might be interesting to some of your readers, I am sending you this line. Signed, Charles Ezra Cornell.

"The winter of 1844-45 was excessively cold and blustery. On Tuesday, Feb. 2, it began to warm up and by noon it was very pleasant. Then it began to snow very heavily. The snow fell for 24 hours without cessation, and with very little wind. Most of the time the air was so full of snow as to give a sensation as of a dense fog. All travel was suspended, and it was with the greatest difficulty that farmers could get to their barns to care for their stock. Accounts vary as to the depth of the snow, running from four to ten feet on the level.

"Wednesday afternoon the wind began to rise until it blew a perfect hurricane and this continued for another four and twenty hours. It piled loose snow in enormous drifts. All communication was cut off for days; in some neighborhoods for weeks, as the cold weather came back, followed by other storms."

Everyone prophesied (an old form of the word?) and prepared for high water that spring, but strange to say it turned warm and pleasant the latter part of February and the snow disappeared and the ice broke up without any difficulty whatever. Early in March it is recorded "The weather is as mild as the merry month of May. The ice in the creek has gone out and the basin is open for a considerable'."

And there is the blizzard of 1888. From the Times of 1928, "Forty years ago March 11 the big blizzard began and continued for three days. There are those who will remember this storm as the most severe they ever saw. In the local streets, snow was

piled man-high, and for two days at least, streets were impassable. At the present time there is no indication of a repetition of that storm yet, when a heavy snow began to fall last Friday, and continued throughout the night it looked as if there might be a repetition of the 1888 blizzard."

These items were taken from scrapbooks that have been preserved over the years.

The Whitehall Independent
May 19, 1988

Whitehall Chronicle in the 1850's
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

An unusual storm visited this area in January 1857. The wind did not "howl" it "bellowed." It left piles of snow ten feet deep in places while an area a short ways away would be brave. Rivers were frozen and railroads blocked. This severe weather extended south and west of Whitehall. Stories of suffering from the cold and travelers were stranded.

The Whitehall Times
January 31, 1974

The Weather January 1874
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Evidently 1874 weather was like that of 1928, 1933 and this year. On 14 January, Lake Champlain was open to Pulpit Point. MOLLY steamed up and went into the lake and began regular runs. Edward McCarty A. Barnes, William Prindle and Charles Whitney locked CHAMPION into the canal 8 January. George S. Griswold was plowing his farm, men were plowing O.F. Davis farm, and the bluebird was heard to sing. A woman on Williams Street presented the editor with violets grown in her garden. Sleighing had disappeared and there was fear of the failure of the ice crop.

The Whitehall Times
April 26, 1984

The Weather in Whitehall in the Spring of 1884
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

On Wednesday 2 April snow fell to the depth of 10 inches. It hid the ground like a sheet of white cloth. There were 10 inches—four of snow and six of mud. This

followed a freshet when the flats south of the village on the North Granville turnpike were under four inches of water. Young Charles Rich drove a very good business by ferrying people. He made as much as three dollars in a day. Tenants between Williams and Canal streets had to go in boats. Flotsam gatherers were rewarded with large supplies of fuel. The lake rose rapidly, but in two days it turned cold and the water fell rapidly.

About two weeks later, no train ran between Whitehall and Ticonderoga for two days. The strong north wind made the water the highest in years. The track along the lake had washouts. Between Whitehall and Ticonderoga, much of the road was built on trestles. Waves dashed over the tracks, undermined the road, and washed away some of the trestle work. Facing South Bay, the track was under six inches of water and the drawbridge at Lake Station, two miles north of the village, was carried away. The trestle work north and south of Putnam Station was gone and a large piece of track north of the tunnel at Port Henry disappeared. North of Port Henry, all wires were down and there was no communication. Large gangs of men were at work and trains passed the washouts in two days.

Ten days later high winds dried the mud of the village and raised clouds of dust.

The Whitehall Independent January 16, 1985

1884

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

On 10 August an earthquake occurred and was felt throughout the eastern and middle states.

On 16 August the thermometer was 110° at 1:30 p.m.

The Whitehall Independent July 24, 1985

A Flood of 1885

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Whitehall has had a variety of floods over the years but usually they came in the spring months when there was a reason for flood waters. But how about one on 13 August 1885? It was on a Thursday and the sky seemed to open wide and freshets of water filled every section of the Village. Wood Creek overflowed from the waters that poured down from West Mountain into all the streets.

In earlier times Whitehall was crossed from west to east with gullies, much of it now man made land. This was true especially in Chapin's Alley where Potash Creek came from the area near Rock Avenue, and through Gilmore Street. Church and Canal

streets were impassable except by wading knee deep in high water. At Bellamy Street the water poured down in avalanche style. At Gilmore it was a torrent from the mountain Houses along the street were flooded. On Canal Street, McGowan's grocery and Mrs. Millett's restaurant had six to eight inches of water.

The water came down School Street and divided at West Street to go down to Chapin's Alley and force the people in the buildings to seek the upper floors. This street was navigable only by boats. Farther on, near the tunnel, Barrett's Grocery and R. A. Chapin's dry goods store were so filled with water that the floors were in danger of being lifted. The sidewalk planks floated from the south to lodge at the foot of School Street. Debris from along the D&H Canal Railroad, where there were washouts came floating north.

Great damage was done to the buildings, gardens in the village, and the farms to the south and east. Some humor was brought to the scene when small boys made makeshift rafts which overturned and left them in the water. Some excitable people struggled to rescue geese and carry them to places out of danger while leaving chickens to float.

This storm was believed to be worse than one in 1868 when even the canal had been covered several feet. At that time the southern section was submerged to the east bank of the canal. A line of men with clasped hands stumbled across the street to rescue women and children by passing them from windows of buildings where the waters had confined them and handed them on to places of safety.

The Whitehall Independent January 15, 1986

On the Ice - 1886 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Cold weather and ice were the topics 100 years ago in January. The canal was a focal point for entertainment. Superintendent Mahan provided an opportunity for the boys of the town to skate on the canal. There were many sleighing parties daily over the smooth ice track and the ice was packed with skaters enjoying the sport.

A trot took place on the ice on South Bay on 19 January with a purse of \$30. The horses were Mark Mason's **MOUNTAIN HARE**, Brett's **BILLY BUTTON**, and Ernest Ames' **BILLY MAY**. Another one was planned for 7 February for a \$75 purse with R. M. Brett's **CHARLIE**, W. A. Frasier's **BROWN FRED**, and P. Kinney's **ANNIE PATCHEN**.

Eleven inches of snow fell on 19 January, greatly improving sleighing.

It was reported that ice dealers would probably come to this area for their household and drinking water. It seems that the good ice of the Hudson River was covered to the depth of two feet by debris of filth and frozen slush which had flowed over it during the recent thaw. It defied all attempts to remove it and added to the huge cakes of ice on edge and sideways that made cutting dangerous. A new source had to be found.

N. W. Vannier and C. Allen purchased the property of William Frasier which consisted of an ice house and land. The firm became known as Vannier and Frasier. Mr. Vannier would run the business in the next ice season.

The Whitehall Times
January 22, 1987

Whitehall in 1887
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The weather on 9 January was 25 degree's below zero and five inches of new snow had fallen on the former accumulation.

Saunders Street was alive with bobbing parties on moonlight nights. Several clubs had bobs and others had improvised bobs. All were fleet and active in carrying passengers first to reach the bridge. Quite a run to cross the railroad track and the Canal Street Bridge over the canal to Saunders Street Bridge.

The Whitehall Times
February 12, 1987

The Weather January 1887
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

By 22 February this area had had 8 feet 9 inches of snow. Freight trains and a special train were abandoned on 17 February because of the severity of the storm.

The Whitehall Times
March 5, 1987

The Whitehall Flood of 1887
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Floods in Whitehall make news and Editor Wilkins described one that occurred in the first week of April 1887 very graphically. His style of writing is impressive and these are his words of reporting.

Heavy Freshet

WOOD CREEK VERY UNRULY - ICE GORGE -DESTRUCTION OF
PROPERTY - WATER THE HIGHEST IN MANY YEARS

Wood Creek has been on a fearful rampage this year, such as it has not indulged in many years. The huge piles of snow in this locality began running wild last week,

emptying vast accumulations of water into the brooks which were swollen to great dimensions than a man who draws prize money in a lottery. The brooks began roaring and tearing with alarming fury, sending great volumes of water into East and Wood Creeks. These usually placid rivers caught the infection and the great sheets of ice - from 18 to 24 inches - groaned and scolded in great frenzy. They rose and sent great lakes into the broad pastures lining the banks and without asking permission rippled, surged and spread over thousands of acres of farm land. The sun poured its piercing rays into the snow banks and across the fields of solid ice, and the spring freshet began about Friday (8 April). The water rose rapidly, and by Sunday the banks of Wood Creek were invisible and residents south of the village became anxious for the safety of the property. Sunday night the meadow of the I. C. Griswold estate was submerged, while the land on the opposite side also became a bed of a seething and unruly sea of water. The ice began to move Sunday and by 1:20 p.m. the stream was clear below the Laravae Bar. Monday the scene was grand but terrific, for the mad waters leaped and rushed with tremendous force through the outlet below the Saunders Street Bridge.

The ice began to move down from above, and its enormous weight would not allow it decently to break up, but hundreds of tons set in and gorged the stream beneath the bridge. The water was higher than it was in 1865, and great danger seemed impending as enormous cakes of ice turned up and formed a gorge between the middle abutment and the west shore, and the elements boiled and churned as if the very heat of Sheal itself was disturbing it.

As far as the eye could see, an unbroken pack of ice held the fort until strong men protected by ropes tied about their waists, and in the hands of men on the bridge above were sawing and chopping and chiseling the obstruction apart.

The bridges, shores and every available place were lined with men, women, and children, all anxiously watching the operation of breaking the ponderous ice floes that were set flying at the mercy of the mad current. Other and more formidable packs came down and plunged against the bridge abutment, only to be stayed and made barriers for the formidable gorges. Great damage to property on the I. C. Griswold Estate seemed probable at one time, but the demon ice finally satisfied itself with the destruction of five outhouses and the old horse shed that had stood on onslaught of 38 years of flood and freshet. This time the solid cakes ran in on this improvised lake and the old Griswold shed, the refuge of former teams for over a third of a century, succumbed.

Several tenements on the estate also suffered more or less until the last gorge was removed. About 2:30 Monday p.m. the water began slowly receding above the bridge, yet the stream failed to assume its usual possessiveness.

The boom that protects the Water Power Company's floor received the ice and shivered it into small pieces and the fragments went whirling over the dam and were swallowed up in the vortex.

Continued next week

The Whitehall Times
March 12, 1987

The Whitehall Flood in 1887
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Freshet in the Lake

Lake Champlain is higher than it has been since 1865. The marshes are all buried beneath the water and the railroad track across the swamp is submerged nearly a foot. The Bar is also one vast pond and the approaches to the transportation office and the docks on the west side and Cooke's Mill on the east side are passable only by boat. Around the Mountain the roads are also impassable. Whitehall can be said to be water bound for, in either direction, by public highway no vehicle can get in or out of the village the New York and Lake Champlain Transportation Companies steamers, moved to their docks, brake this caliber on Monday and many canal boats in the harbor were dancing on the crest of the raging flood.

The docks of the transportation company and the lumber piles are considerably damaged. Water has flooded the basement of the O. F. Davis building at the slip and thousands tons of ice are piled about every available landing.

Tuesday night the water rose nearly one foot in Wood Creek, reaching a point it has not touched since the memorable flood of 1865. Fortunately the weather turned cold Monday night and by Tuesday morning Jack Frost had locked the huge snow banks and humbled the turbulent tides of Wood Creek tributaries. The floods began to assuage and the overflow began to slacken, and the water fell all day yesterday.

There was danger of the Boardman Street Bridge going off but road commissioner Haley was promptly on hand with a gang of men and the gorge that had formed above the structure was loosened.

The Excited Populace

Monday was an exciting day in this village and all business was actually suspended. The bridges and streets were thronged with people all anxiously watching the course of the tide. The "oldest inhabitants" were out in full force, all uniting in the statement that the flood of 1887 was the greatest that had occurred since 1865, if not since 1841.

Other Memorial Freshets

Our venerable townsman, John Brett, informed us that the freshet of 1841 was the greatest ever experienced in Whitehall. At that freshet the water ran over Canal Street and carried away the bridge that then hung across the place where the lake and canal intersect. Just previous to the fall of the bridge, the late E. A. Martin had crossed the structure. The old stone warehouse then occupied was half buried beneath the flood.

In the spring of 1865 on St. Patrick's Day many well remember the freshet that occurred. The bridge that spanned the creek, where the foot bridge now hangs, was carried away, and the railroad travel between Whitehall and Fort Edward was suspended for several days.

On that eventful occasion the Editor of this paper, with a dozen other people of this locality, left Albany Friday morning for Whitehall. Friday night the train had only

reached Saratoga Springs where the passengers remained until Saturday morning, as the road above Saratoga Springs was impassable. By Saturday noon the train reached Fort Edward and then an engine carried the dozen passengers to Smith's Basin. From there to Comstock the journey was made by foot, traveling over hills at times, and by railroad where it was possible. At Comstock's we found Ben Holcomb with a handcart which brought us to Whitehall, although the journey was made by standing the passengers closely together, spoon fashion. Saturday found us at Whitehall where we learned that the wagon bridge on the site of the present foot bridge had been carried away by the flood.

In 1868 there was a severe January thaw that sent torrents of water down from the hills, flooding Canal. Street. The tunnel under Church Street furnished the outlet for the oversupply of water. Of course there have been frequent periods of high water, but the year of 1887 will be set down in local history as a Red Letter day of high water.

The Whitehall Times March 11, 1971

1888 Blizzard Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Blizzard of 1888 — 83 years ago. I have read a diary kept by a Whitehall citizen for that year. She recorded deaths, marriages, personal items and weather records of many days of the year; but for the Blizzard day all she reported was "a heavy snowstorm today."

XXX

Ambrose Gilligan has his favorite story of that year. I'm sure he won't mind my giving it in general terms and he will fill in the details. The superintendent of schools that day laboriously waded through Whitehall's drifted streets, ringing his school hand bell and crying, "No school today! No school today!"

There must be other White-hall blizzard stories.

The Whitehall Independent May 23, 1984

An Electric Storm Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

It's coming up thunderstorm time, and many will be telling their favorite scary escape from nature's fireworks.

A lively demonstration occurred on 23 May 1893 when a rainstorm visited Whitehall. One residence was struck on Latour Street, one tree on Williams Street, and

several on roads outside the village. But the most activity was concerned with the gas company's system.

On Broad Street near the post office the insulator of a wire was burned off. The live wire fell to the street but no one was near to be burned. Several converters of the gas company were burned, one in front of the Boston Dry Goods store (Cain, Stern & CO.) in Chapin's Block on present Main Street.

Across the canal and Wood Creek at the silk mill, the lightning arresters of the gas company's system turned a thunderbolt into the lake where it was spent in a frothing of the water. North of that, McLaughlin's lightning arresters in his electric light station also turned the bolt into the lake causing a commotion. The building was the Stone Storehouse built in 1816 for the United States naval stores.

These lightning arresters were huge magnets that attracted the bolts and made them harmless. Lightning rods used to be common on buildings for the same purpose. Without the arresters the whole building would have been destroyed.

In W. F. Bascom's office in the Old Flatiron Building, the telephone was destroyed and in the telegraph office in the same building the switchboard could not be operated for several hours.

A flash in the gas company's system struck near a lineman's face. He was paralyzed for several hours but was back among the wires the next morning.

The Whitehall Times

May 17, 1984

The Flood of 1900

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

High water in Whitehall has occurred in many years, but the flood on Tuesday, 13 February 1900, seems to have been the highest. It was sixteen inches higher than any other flood recorded before that year. Many buildings had never had water in them before.

Several days of rain caused Mettawee River and Wood Creek to rise immensely. The lowlands along these two were flooded and where they joined a mile south of the village, a great lake appeared. The ice had gone out of the creek. The water going through the narrow gorge into the lake rushed along thirty feet deep. The ground was frozen and the small mountain streams turned into rivers. As the water poured over the rocks into the lake, it made a deafening roar.

Above the Saunders Street Bridge the water was deep. For the first time it rose into the dining room of E. P. Manville's house. This space is now the children's room in the Isaac Griswold Library, in the S. K. Griswold store, now the Schulman building had been lifted four feet but was reached by the flood. Although the owners had made preparations for the flood, they were not prepared for the eighteen inches they received.

The railroad tracks as far as Fort Ann and north across the marshes were covered with two feet of water. Many families "around the mountain", had to leave their homes for places of safety. The lumber yard and boats in the harbor were damaged. Out of 600

piles of lumber in the Whitehall Lumber Company yard, only sixty remained intact. The rest were overturned. A large number of workers had to be hired to collect and re-pile them.

In the basin steamer GERMANIA of the Cook line was lodged against the dock and held there by the ice. The COOK was keeled up against the dock but both were saved. The WITHERBEE, the DEFENDER, the SCULLY were not injured.

Several canal boats were pushed onto the dock and damaged. The Champlain Silk Mill had to be shut down because of high water. The ice knocked in the south end of the engine room and flooded it.

By Wednesday the water was receding and the aftermath of the flood was in progress.

The Whitehall Times April 22, 1982

The Flood of 1913 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

For the first part of the 1900's, we have only scattered issues of newspapers, but a clipping described this flood in 1913.

The Bar, that hard section of land to the north of the vicinity of Clinton Avenue, was submerged by the worst flood of 50 years, worse than the flood of 1890.

The business section of Canal (Main) Street, beginning at Broad Street (Barber's) would have had its business brought to a standstill if it had not been for the moveable dam of the new barge canal under the Clinton Avenue Bridge. This dam was constructed when, during the period of 1907 - 1912 the enlarged canal was moved east into the bed of Wood Creek.

The business firms in the harbor north of the Clinton Avenue Bridge suffered. The channel north out of the harbor had not yet been dug. The lake channel could not handle all the water which backed up and overflowed the lumber yard section on the Bar. East Bay overflowed also as Poultney River poured water into it.

John B. Shinnors of the Whitehall Lumber company and J. H. Fournier's planing mill on the Bar were the chief losers. Three million feet of lumber on Fournier's land was re-piled and dried but at a great loss through depreciation and labor. The Whitehall Lumber Company's loss was great.

Residents of North Williams Street and the Elbow had to abandon their homes or live upstairs. Even on East Boardman Street people had to move furnishings to the upper stories.

From the tunnel to the Elbow parts of the D&H mainline north sank in several feet of water and travel north stopped for two days. A double headed freight train was partially wrecked here. Passengers coming from the Rutland area had to portage on foot at Castleton from the train from Rutland to a train that came from Whitehall.

The Champlain Silk mill boiler room was flooded and had to be shut down. This was the old mill as the new mill was not constructed until 1916.

As the water began to recede, another disaster occurred. Fire broke out in the Lake Champlain Transportation company machine shop in the wood-working department on the Bar. The firemen rowed to the scene in row boats and with added fire extinguishers.

This flood preceded those floods of 1927 and 1977, both of which are also discussed in Whitehall.

Alleys and Lanes

The directory of 1892-1983 has these alleys, lanes and places mentioned. How many of them can you locate? Only Wilson is mentioned in the 1925 directory and that had been changed to avenue.

Beaudoin Lane, Chapin Alley, Erwin or Irwin Lane, Wilson Alley, Griswold Lane, Lindsay Place.

The Whitehall Times

June 18, 1987

Town Topics 1914

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

When a northwest storm came to Whitehall in 1914 for a few moments it was a small cyclone. It was the month of July with a stiff wind and lighting. The latter struck the Griswold home at the corner of Saunders and Church (Broadway) Streets, now the Greenough home. The cupola was struck and several feet of slate roof were torn away. In recent years a similar storm from the northwest demolished a large section of the front of the Whitehall Times. James Roche restored the front to its original facade, earning a Preservation Award from the Washington County Preservation Council.

The Whitehall Times

July 2, 1987

A Storm on Lake Champlain - 1914

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Lake Champlain Transportation Company's steamer Triton was blown ashore 13 Friday 1914. It is well known that a storm can arise as quickly on Lake Champlain as it can on Lake George. The wind blew at a force of fifty miles per hour and the waters were whipped into a fury. Triton went ashore off Quaker Smiths Reef. The three canal boat tow was towed away and drifted to the Shelburne shore. The men were rescued by a life raft from steamer Vermont and taken ashore on tug Protector and were brought home.

The men were really terrified for they had to wait for the raft to be drawn overland several miles before it could be launched to save them. All this time they expected their own boat to be dashed to pieces or filled and sunk.

This probably is an exciting story for the families of the boatmen - Captain Henry Scott, First Engineer Peter Matte, Second Engineer Joseph Matte, and deckhand John J. Scott, all of Whitehall. In the village of the gale toppled fences, signs, telephone and telegraph poles and wires. Electricity was cut off.

The Whitehall Times
November 7, 1985

Whitehall in 1922
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In the last flood Whitehall had, did anyone see hencoops and small sized buildings go floating down Wood Creek? The flood of 1922 overflowed the Canal and Wood Creek, forcing occupants to use rowboats for transportation from Mill 2, and marooning the pumping station and houseboats on the canal banks. The train from the south was an hour and a half late and an unnamed woman flagged a freight train and "doubtless saved lives."

The Whitehall Independent
March 28, 1984

Weather in December 1926
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Weather is a determining factor in many events. In December 1926 it affected the last tow of the season. The canal was officially closed on a Thursday, but the ROBERT H. COOK left Canada that day and reached Whitehall Harbor Saturday.

The weather turned very cold. A Standard Oil Company oil tanker and Lake Champlain Transportation Co. tugs broke the ice in the lake and canal. The twenty six boats were locked into the canal with the expectation that they would be moved south in the morning.

However, it turned so cold and a storm dropped twelve inches of snow. The Lake Champlain Transportation Company officials were afraid to try the journey and the boats were locked back into the harbor so that if the weather became warmer they could be continued on their journey. If not, the cargoes could be transferred to the railroad cars at the Whitehall Lumber Company's siding and be shipped out or possibly remain in the harbor all winter.

In the tow were twenty four boats loaded with lumber and two with hay. An eel boat accompanied the tow with fifteen tons, or 30,000 pounds, valued at \$18,000, as it would sell in New York City at sixty cents a pound wholesale. The whole value of the tow was \$318,000. The eel boat was a small wooden one without a cabin, like a wooden

water tank. If it couldn't get through the canal, the cargo would be barreled and shipped by rail to New York.

A captain reported that this year's season was one of the worst in his twenty-five years of experience (1901-1926). Last year (1925) at Thanksgiving time South Bay was frozen solid and fishermen enjoyed their annual winter sport. This year it was frozen but no fishing had been done.

Other stories appeared. Back in April, as Herbert A. Barber of Clemons said, he drove a team of horses across South Bay. The ice was reported twenty-two inches thick. Oliver Neddo, who lived near the Bay, said that this was the latest in his memory that a team of horses was driven across the ice.

Walter Bartley said that on 8 April, 1901 he had cut ice on Lake George and filled his ice house. The editor of the newspaper said that Mike Kennedy had brought to the office a pansy picked from his garden at the time of the annual football banquet and Alvah Caprood had picked strawberries just a month before in her garden.

DRESDEN, HULETTS, CLEMONS readers: To help us cover the events of interest to you, your families, organizations, and events, you may call our correspondent, JoAnne Dunbar at 499-0801 between 6 and 9 p.m. We will be most happy to provide coverage.

Whitehall Descriptions

The Whitehall Independent
February 6, 1975

Geographic Names
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Early geographic names associated with Whitehall's history have been listed by researchers in books in foreign languages and rare sources. Grace G. Niles: *The Hoosac Valley*, 1912, researched Indian life in that valley. Nathaniel B. Sylvester compiled *Historical Sketches of Northern New York and the Adirondack Wilderness* from a number of reference resources that were "still buried in our colonial archives" in 1877. Then there are the researchers like E. M. Ruttenber who worked in the early years of the 20th century.

In 1570 Van Ortelius' map of New France showed the area of northern New York as named Avacal. This section was described as an island, as it was encircled by waterways navigable by canoes.

In 1616 a map of the same area was called Ir-o-coi-sia, "the hereditary country of the Iroquois," the name applied by the French to the Indians of this territory. They were called by the English. "The Five Nations" and by themselves Ho-de-no-sau-nee, or "People of the Long House." This northern New York area was Ga-ne-a-ga-o-no-ga, "People Possessors of the Flint," or the land claimed by the Mohawks. This claim was

disputed by a Canadian nation called the Adiron-dacks. From this dispute came the description of our Adirondack area as the "dark and bloody ground" in colonial history

The popular explanation of the term Adirondack is that it came from a derisive term given to the Algonquins by their enemies the Iroquais, "They eat Trees, or Tree-eaters." However, researchers have pointed out that the bark of the chestnut, the walnut, and other trees was dried, macerated, and rolled in the fat of bears and other animal, and probably formed a palatable and a healthful diet. The practice was not confined to a particular tribe within the Adirondack area. The totem of the Algonquins was an evergreen oak.

Another name for northern New York beside Adirondack was Mihtumechaick, the Algonquins term with the same meaning as Adirondack. Another term was Coughsach-rage, or the Beaver-hunting country. The English acquired this area by confirmation 14 September 1724 and described it as "full of swamps, lakes, rivers, drowned lands, and a long chain of snowy mountains. Lake Champlain runs through the whole tract north and south. This country is not only uninhabited but even unknown to the south." Written across Gov. Pownal's map of the northern British colonies in 1776 is this inscription: "This vast tract of land, which is the ancient Coughsachrage, one of the four beaver hunting countries of the Six Nations, is not yet subdued."

Professor Emmons is given the credit for naming the principal mountain chain the Adirondacks, which border Whitehall to the north and run along its western boundary.

The Whitehall Independent

March 16, 1988

The Origin of the Name Whitehall

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A frequent inquiry from outside places is the origin of the name Whitehall. The most recent name is from an individual in New York City who is preparing a book on the origin of the names of every town and city in the United States. This is the reply I sent him.

Skenesborough, later Whitehall, was named for its Loyalist founder, Philip Skene, from 1759 to 1786. In 1786, feeling still ran high over the Loyalists. The inhabitants wanted to get away from all things British. This was also true in the County of Charlotte, named for the consort of George III. It (the county name) was patriotically changed to Washington. It seems an odd choice for what could be more British than the word Whitehall.

A theory was advanced that the name was taken from the names of two men, White and Hall. Research, however, shows that the White lived in the southern part of the town, but had had no political community service and that no family of Hall had arrived at that time.

The Town of Whitehall had its first election in 1778, and dual supervisors were chosen, Levy Stockwell and Daniel Brundidge. In 1786, the date of the change, the leaders were Daniel Earl and Joel Adams. The nearest population count was that of the

national census of 1790; the heads of families only were named, with the number in each family. Whitehall had 818 souls at that time.

In March 1806, the Village of Whitehall was incorporated as Whitehall Landing. As many town and village records were burned in a fire in 1860, early officials and other data are not known.

In 1820 another incorporation was made for the Village of Whitehall as Whitehall only. Its probable president was Nathaniel Hall. It had a population of 2341.

The present population from the census of 1980 for the Town of Whitehall is 4427, and for the Village of Whitehall, 3291. The present supervisor is Robert Rozell and the present mayor is Lawrence J. Varney. Neither the Town nor the Village has an emblem.

To Bertha Dockum: The Research Center of Whitehall would be very happy to have a genealogical folder on the Norton family. The volunteers are compiling folders and filing material on many topics of Whitehall history. The greatest source of this material on families can only come from the records of the family members themselves. Whitehall has such material on some of its families, and it is hoped more will be shared. Many letters of inquiry from all over the United States and even Canada are received constantly. Our files have helped in answering some of them, and could do more if other information was supplied. The group meets each Tuesday morning from 10 to 12, except the summer months. They welcome visitors and workers.

The Whitehall Independent

September 9, 1987

Whitehall in the Era of the Birth of the Constitution - 1787

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Skenesborough was erected into a township by Philip Skene's first Royal Patent of 25,000 acres 13 March 1765. It proscribed a form of government with two assessors, one treasurer, two overseers of the poor, one collector, and four constables chosen every year on the last Tuesday of September.

Whether these requirements were met during the years 1765 and 1775 there seems at present no way of knowing. In 1775 after its capture by the Green Mountain Boys, the area was under American rule. Aaron Fuller was in charge of town affairs while Skene's interests were guarded by several men. In military affairs Paul Yeats had orders to keep the saw mill going. He was succeeded by David Waterbury, who had charge of the building of the fleet in 1776 by order of Congress.

With the arrival of General Burgoyne in 1777 British forces were in power. With the advent of the Battle of Saratoga they were sent north, and the former inhabitants who had fled to the south began to return to their homes. Only in 1778 was any formal government mentioned and this was from Corey' Gazetteer of 1850 who reported that Daniel Brundige from the southeastern part of the town and Levi Stockwell from the Pangman Hill area parts of town were elected supervisors; James Burroughs from the east was chosen town clerk while Thomas Wilson, Joseph Earle, and Zebulon Tubb from the

Mettawee area were the three assessors. William Higby was the Constable. These men were some of the prominent officials in the town for many years.

In this period a military force of 129 under Captain Levi Stockwell was posted in Skenesborough to protect the frontier from the British and Indians who were roaming the Lake region destroying land and people. This force dwindled because of lack of State support, sickness, and furloughs to go home to tend to crops. In spite of the fact they had been warned of an attack over the lake, the force was reduced to fifteen. When the attack came over the mountain 21 March 1780 all but one of the force were captured and taken to Canada. This was also the time that Lemuel Bartholomew was captured, a well known story in Whitehall. The report of General Ten Brock told of the destruction of Skene's house and barn and one other house.

In 1781 forty one people from Skenesborough petitioned the General Assembly of Vermont to grant them a piece of land to the northeast of Skenesborough to be called New Cheshire. After a second petition the attempt was abandoned.

This brings us nearer to the time when the first record book of the Town of Whitehall began to list the activities of the government and nearer the time of the mailing of the United States Constitution.

The Whitehall Independent September 2, 1987

Whitehall in the Era of the Birth of the Constitution - 1787 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Two hundred years ago on 17 September 1787, the Constitution of the United States was completed. All during the hundredth year, 1987, an avalanche of pamphlets, contests, books, and local observances have appeared to remind citizens living under its protection of its origin. In the summer months from 25 May to 17 September 1787, fifty five representatives from thirteen states labored during the very hot weather in Philadelphia, without modern air-conditioning, believing that only in great secrecy could they produce the desired result, they secured privacy by creating a "no-man's" area around the building and swore themselves in a pact that allowed no one in the meeting to take notes or discuss the questions outside. This allowed the members to make decisions without outside pressure. Only James Monroe took notes of the meetings that were not published until the middle of the 18th century. The official record contained only the barest details. Under these conditions these delegates, whose original purpose had been to revise the Articles of Confederation, completed a Constitution that the North American Review in 1898 declared "the most wonderful ever struck off at a given time by the brain and purpose of man"; and that Franklin D. Roosevelt declared, "Our Constitution is so simple and practical that it is possible to meet extraordinary needs in emphasis and arrangement without loss of essential form." This Constitution was signed 17 September by thirty-nine of its original delegates who were, contrary to general impression, mostly young, educated, urbane, and practical men from every walk of life.

What was happening in Whitehall during the period in history that led to the signing of our nation's Constitution? In 1759 Skenesborough was founded by Philip Skene. This settlement developed a farming population in a series of locations in Hatch Hill, the Elbow, Beaver Meadows, and along Wood Creek. Under New York State law the area became the Township of Skenesborough, 13 March, 1765. There is no official record of any political organization until 1778. Life seemed to flow along under a kindly over lordship of Philip Skene.

This condition changed, however, with the advent of the Revolution. After the capture of the community by the Green Mountain Boys in 1775, Skene's interests were guarded by overseer Noah Lee. In 1776 when the Revolution leaders commanded that a fleet be built in Skenesborough the town was under military direction. When General Burgoyne's forces came in 1777 the area came under British Military rule until the American victory at Saratoga.

The Whitehall Independent September 16, 1987

Skenesborough Era Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Skenesborough in the Era before the Birth of the United States Constitution

In the immediate years before the making of the Nation's Constitution, Skenesborough was growing in government, population, and industry.

An attempt at secession had been defeated in 1781 in the northern part of the town and in the southeastern part malcontents had asked Governor Clinton to pardon their attempt to join Vermont.

The first recorded minutes of the town began in 1782. This record book in the manuscript room of the State Library ends with the year 1811. When Cristfield Johnson wrote the Washington County History in 1877, he said this first book was lost and he used the second book, which is now lost. The practice of electing two supervisors was dropped. So many roads were coming into existence that three commissioners were elected and many overseers of roads or pathmasters were chosen. They tended the roads that ran in their neighborhood in lieu of taxes. Pound keepers were necessary to protect the commons from straying animals and fence and damage viewers protected the people's land. Another office was that of overseer of the poor to help the town's poor and keep other town's poor from settling here.

Feeling still ran high over the Tories that lived in Skenesborough in 1783. The inhabitants resolved 20 May that any person who had served the King in any way was barred from citizenship in Skenesborough unless he was pardoned. This rule was applied to any one who hired or kept such people in their homes. Any such had to present a certificate. In this year also occurred the freshet that drastically changed the course of the Poultney River and East Bay.

In 1779 the State Legislature passed an act of attainder and forfeiture of Loyalist property which included the Skene property. In 1780 the State borrowed large sums of

money with this land as security. As a result in 1784 there was an act for the speedy sale of this property. In 1785 Skene's lands were sold not for fourteen pounds, which story historians have copied over the years, but for many thousands of dollars. The fourteen pounds was the surveyor's fee.

In 1786 occurred one of Whitehall's historical mysteries. The 1785 town meeting minutes used the name of Skenesborough but the 1786 minutes used Whitehall with no explanation. Nothing could have been more British; the reason given for the county's change from Charlotte to Washington was to "get away from all things British." It could not have been named for people as the Whites in town lived out on Wood Creek Road and the Halls had not arrived.

Then came the year 1787, the year the State's delegates completed the Constitution of the United States, ready to be ratified. In that year Whitehall was firmly established as a township in Washington County, created by state law. Henry Francisco, 101 years old, was living in town. Lake transportation had not been developed commercially and the canal had only been thought of.

The Whitehall Independent

April 6, 1983

"Both Sides of the Water"

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

"Both Sides of the Water" seems an appropriate title to explain some of Whitehall's history. The streams, lake, and canal have been an important force in the activities of early Skenesborough and later Whitehall.

The theme of the Urban Cultural Park System for Whitehall is Defense and Transportation, both of which relied on the waters of the area for success. The easy access to the area made Philip Skene, Whitehall's founder, the earliest tourist. Castle Creek, running from Hatch Hill area into the Mettawee River, (earlier East Creek and Skenesborough Creek) supported Burroughs' grist mill that preceded Skene's mill in the harbor.

Poultney River and East Bay furnished a route for the Hessian troops that bivouacked near Castle section during General Burgoyne's three week stay in Skenesborough. Wood Creek was a path for Indians seeking the moose of the Adirondacks for food and raiment and for raids on their enemies. The same path was used by French and English in their struggle for the continent. Still later, augmented by the Champlain Canal it was a main north-south route for trade.

South Bay furnished transportation for Dieskau's force in his raid on Lake George. Israel Putnam's 1758 engagement with the French occurred at Put's Rock on Lake Champlain. The numerous streams draining the many ponds in the Town furnished power for the important lumber industry of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Lake Champlain furnished travel for commerce and tourism. It was a factor that opened the Adirondack Park to the public for recreation. On it was carried untold items of necessities between Canadian and lakeside resources and New York City. Fishing and

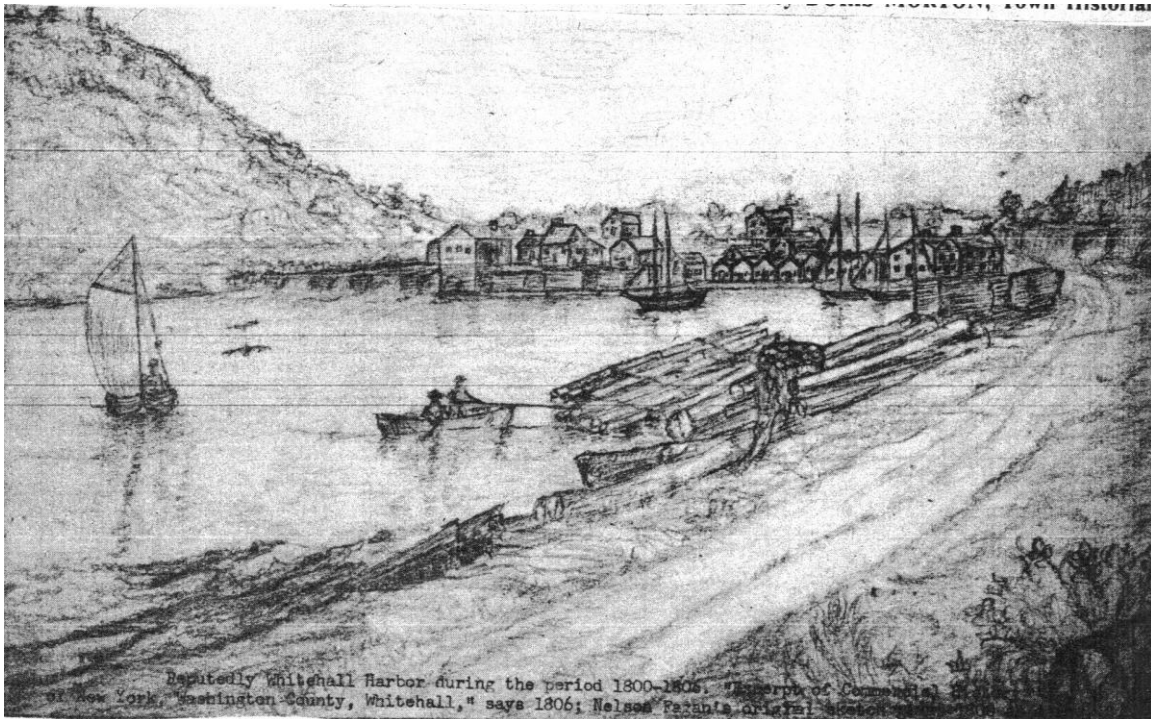
boating depended on these waters: The location of Whitehall's ship and boat building for two wars, and commerce, and the lumber industries was made possible by these waters.

The nomenclature of these waters and the areas surrounding them is a history lesson in itself. The latest name brought to our attention is Potash Creek. Its discovery was made from the perusal of a deed of the later part of the 1870's in the area bordering Saunders Street. Can it be that stream that flows near Brookdale Avenue gone underground at Chapin's Alley? And why the name of the earliest commercial product of Skenesborough that furnished one of the reasons for smuggling over the lake at the time of the War of 1812?

And on the sides of all this water the history of Whitehall has developed.

The Whitehall Times March 4, 1962

Whitehall in 1806 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



This picture has been labeled as Whitehall Harbor of 1806. However, it resembles the painting of the harbor in 1819 produced by the Hudson River painter, Jacques Milbert. I think this is a copy of that with some details left out.

But Clarence Holden evidently saw a picture of earlier Whitehall painted by Alexandre Andre. Using his description and this picture one can visualize to some degree how the early section around the falls area looked.

He wrote: Taken from the north the view shows the mouth of Wood Creek and some of the town beyond. Skene Mountain is about the only recognizable feature in the picture. No dam or bridge is shown at the mouth of the creek, but a number of rocks indicate the falls.

On the west side of the creek at the falls stands a two-story mill, perhaps a saw mill, as there is what seems to be a logway running from the water up to the second story, and there is a raft of logs in the harbor in the foreground. There is a small sail boat beating north, and bateau with two men.

The harbor appears to be much wider than it is now. Five or six sloops or schooners are moored at the wharf one of them being quite a large ship having three masts.

South of the mill is a large building with a small portico probably a tavern. Ranged about are several dwelling houses, rude one-story affairs with a door and two windows on the eaves side and a window in the gable end. Standing on the face of the dock is a row of narrow two-story buildings, store and warehouses no doubt.

In the distance, as the ground rises, appear the roofs and tops of other buildings, a large square structure looming conspicuously over all. To the right, up the hill and about where is now High Street, is a large low building, with a circular block house in front of it. This probably the barracks we read about.

The Whitehall Times October 19, 1974

Whitehall in 1806 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In June, 1806, Dr. Michael Freleigh went from his home in Schenectady to visit his brothers in Plattsburgh. His diary describes the land he traveled over. The section to Whitehall offers a variety of surfaces. This was prior to the canal building in 1819.

Fort Edward was a place of houses scattered over an extensive plain. Sandy Hill was at the junction of roads leading from Lake George and Champlain. Kingsbury held productive and well cultivated soil, the inhabitants appearing rich and comfortable. The chief business was agriculture, not like the country below where the chief trade was in lumber, "leading to the neglect of husbandry and good economy and the total ruin of morals and manners."

Fort Ann lies on Wood creek, eleven and one half miles from Whitehall. The Inland Lock Navigation companies planned to connect the Hudson River and Lake Champlain through the water of Wood creek. Much money had been spent and lost because the work was totally impracticable for the population of that time.

Then came his description of the road to Whitehall and a little of the village itself which disputes many descriptions of the place. "From Fort Ann to Whitehall Landing the road generally lays along the bank of the creek and near the former for a mile or two runs amongst rocks, mountains and stones where hardly any earth is to be found. In some places the ledges of rocks approach to the very edge of the creek and leave no room for a

road. By docking into the creek, however, they supply by art what is denied them by nature.

"By degrees the mountains open a fine interval along the bank of the creek which from its contrast to the surrounding mountains, to extreme fertility, and the beauty of its situation baffles description. Near the landing the lands are most valuable and productive. Whitehall is a place of landing and warehouses for the products transported up the Lake Champlain intended for the southern markets. Several sloops and schooners ply between this and other places on the lake."

Dr. Frelich's stay overnight at Ackley's tavern in Whitehall (pre-revolutionary tavern that stood at the front of the Grand Union lot) cost two shillings, six pence. This was on' his return trip to Schenectady.

The overland route taken shows the road that was followed by stage coaches as well as horseback — from Whitehall to Benson, Shoreham, Vergennes, and Burlington. To get to Plattsburgh one crossed by ferry at Shelburne to Willsboro. Plattsburgh in 1806 had 30 to 40 houses.

The Whitehall Independent **April 2, 1986**

1806

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



Photo by K. Bartholomew-06/2009

On the vault in the Village Building is the date 1806. This was the year that the State Legislature by enactment set the Village of White Hall aside from the County. In 1807 the one word Whitehall appeared in print. It was easier to write. The pronunciation should really place equal stress on each part of the name.

The size of the Village was much smaller than today. The boundaries extended from the vicinity of Sixth Street (Maple), ran north to the channel of Lake Champlain, and then turned south to the falls of Wood Creek and its west side.

The Act established duties and privileges. A duty was to elect fire wardens and firemen to protect the citizens, and a privilege to tax for fire engines and equipment. The elected officers were to be three trustees, one treasurer and one collector for one year. The trustees were to assess value of property, real and personal, and apportion the tax. The collector could have four cents on each dollar he collected and the tax raised could be more than \$300.

In, this year 1806, the road to Granville came from the area of the Bar up to the bridge across the Creek, located about where the footbridge was, and south on the present Williams Street. This road was extended 5 April north from the bridge to a point opposite Skene's old dam, which was in the vicinity of the silk mill. At the same time, the trustees voted to build a bridge across Skene's old dam.

Alexandre Andre painted a picture of Whitehall this year. It has been described looking south from the harbor. Skene Mountain is there with no buildings on it.

The mouth of Wood Creek shows no dam or bridge. On the west side is a saw mill and below it a row of one story buildings and perhaps a tavern. Above these on the hill is shown a large square building, the fort of the wars and the barracks. The harbor contains sloops, a large boat, and bateaux. It is reminiscent of the 1819 Millard picture.

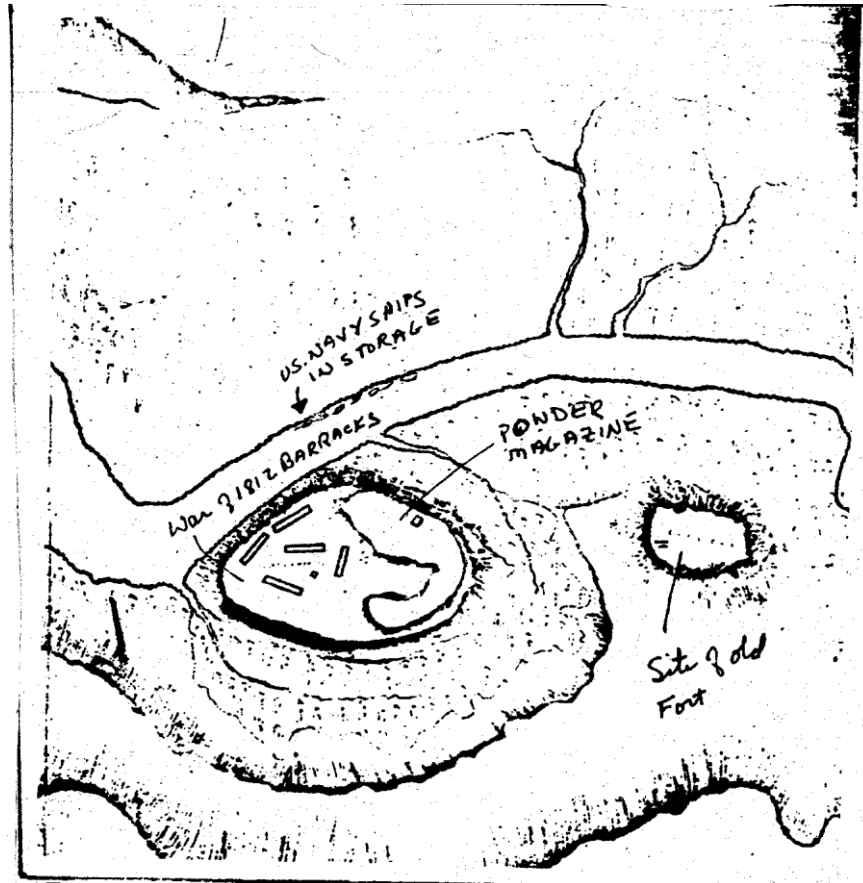
In this year the town elections put these men in office, familiar names in Whitehall's early history. These were Supervisor Daniel Earll, Clerk Gideon Taft, and Collector Solomon Vine. The other officers were plural in number two, Overseers of the Poor, Thomas Griffith and Thomas Lyon; three Assessors, William Johnson, Reuben Jones, and Thomas McFarren; three Highway Commissioners, Absalom Daley, Squire Bartholomew, and John McFarren; four constables, Jeremiah Dwyer, Solomon Vine, Ezra Mygatt, and Absalom Daley.

Often a man held a position in two offices. The other positions were fence viewers, pound masters, and path masters. The latter were often teens in number as they had charge of keeping the roads in their vicinity in good order.

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The Whitehall Independent
April 23, 1986

Whitehall in 1815-16
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



This map of Whitehall came from the National Archives in Washington. It was drawn by John Anderson and Isaac Roberdeau, U.S.A. in late 1815, early 1816. It was a year before the Champlain Canal was started here in 1817, long before the land between Skene Mountain and the Island was cut by a canal that took traffic from the natural lake and around Fiddler's Elbow and before the Whitehall lithograph of 1819.

During the War of 1812 the Port of Whitehall was an entrepot through which military materials and troops passed. A fort, called on other maps Fort Comfort or Fort Diamond, was constructed. Barracks were placed near the rise and entrenchments, which were never used, were dug. The powder magazine remnants were still in evidence in the first part of the twentieth century, remembered by older Whitehallers.

From this map may be seen the reason some early mapmakers called the narrow stretch of water an extension of Wood Creek rather than the head of Lake Champlain. After the battle of Lake Champlain in September 1814 Commodore Macdonough brought to this port some of the American fleet and some of the British prize fleet. The ships

were moored on the west side of the Lake in December 1814. In apprehension that the British might strike from the north the guns were taken from the ships and mounted on land.

After the hostilities had ceased Whitehall was a naval depot for many years. The old storehouse on the east side of the harbor was constructed in 1816. When Stillman, the noted traveler, went through Whitehall (visiting Henry Francisco) he saw the sailors looking out the portholes of the ships. In the decade of the 20's the ships were sold, stripped of valuables and moored in the East Bay-Poultney River area. The location of some is known where they are preserved under water for scientific examination of historic artifacts. Two have had such study, TICONDEROGA and EAGLE. One other is waiting it, the British LINNET. The story of this study has been published in the book entitled "History and Construction of the United States Schooner, Ticonderoga" by Kevin Crissman who made the study at Skenesborough Museum of the Ticonderoga, researched its history from primary sources, dived in the river, and wrote his thesis at the University of Texas. He is presently working on the EAGLE.

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The Whitehall Independent
April 30, 1986

Whitehall in 1815-16
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



The United States map of the Naval Base in Whitehall in late 1815 and early 1816 shows the settlement above the falls. Wood Creek flows down to the harbor. This view, not drawn in perspective, is before the Champlain Canal was built and before the lithograph of 1819. A sawmill is on the west side of the creek in the vicinity of the present Lock 12. In 1770 Skene's sawmill was on the east side of the creek. Farther up the creek is a bridge which carried the traffic across to the turnpike that ran south toward Granville. This bridge was approximately on the site of the late foot bridge and was the one that Lafayette crossed on this way from the Phoenix on the Lake to Wiswall Tavern in 1824 on the Granville turnpike where he was entertained at supper before he took carriage to Albany. This tavern was next to the site of the present Elks building and is probably one of the buildings shown on this map. Here he presented wine glasses to the little flower girls who strewed flowers before him on his walk from the boat. The Granville turnpike was extended to the north of the bridge in 1810.

On the west side of the harbor are the naval storehouses for sails and supplies, north of a slip laid out in 1807 approximately at the end of present Bellamy Street. From this section, also in 1807, a road that eventually became Church Street (now Broadway)

curved to the west and then south to meet the road that ran south past Ackley's Tavern (on site of Grand Union) and on to Fort Ann. Older citizen's told Clarence Holden in his interviews on Whitehall that Church Street was farther east. This map bears that out.

The block house and barracks were on the hill overlooking the harbor. A French and Indian fort was located here in 1759 when Skene founded the settlement. In the Revolution this fort and barracks were occupied when the Navy was being constructed in 1776. Both had to have extensive repairs. The fort was still standing at the time Rev. Kellogg gave his Historical Sermon in 1849. This hill extended from the height on which the Presbyterian Church stands east to include the rise of land west of Centre Street. This hill is shown in pictures of the 1933 razing by the railroad of the houses on that street. Jesse Walker, on his visits to Whitehall, used to tell that the area north of this hill was water in which he and his companions used to catch ducks and that the steep rock leading to it had a ring to which boats were tied.

The short road just west of Wood Creek was doubtless laid out in 1807 when Church Street was made as it started at the same building and joined the main road to Fort Ann.

On the west side of the harbor is a lone building which could be the naval storehouse built in 1816. Pictures of Whitehall in the late 1900's show it in a dilapidated condition.

In 1806 the Waterford and Whitehall Turnpike Company was formed and soon after stage coaches used a road from Waterford that crossed the Hudson River at Fort Miller and reached Whitehall by way of Fort Edward and Fort Ann.

On subsequent maps it was called the road to Fort Ann. The road ended in Whitehall in summer to catch the boats on the lake and in the winter for travel on the ice.

The Whitehall Independent September 19, 1984

“Travels in America” - 1818 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In 1818 John M. Duncan wrote his Travels in America as did Siliman two years later, to give us the information about Henry Francisco. This he had to say about Whitehall, which was printed in the Bulletin:

"On getting upon deck the next morning (at Fort Ticonderoga) we were passing between a double line of mountains, but near the banks of the stream the ground was marshy and uninteresting, and the channel very irregular and winding, in some places the turns were so abrupt and the stream so narrow, that a tow line had to be got out ahead to aid the helm in bringing the vessel around.

"Whitehall is a dirty, but busy little town. It was formerly called Skenesborough, and under that name is famous in Burgoyne's campaign. It is built upon the banks of a muddy stream called Wood Creek, which flows from the south, and branching into two arms, tumbles over some steep rocks into the channel of Lake Champlain. The houses

stand partly in a narrow valley between the mountains, and partly upon their steep acclivities. At Whitehall the new canal terminates."

The Whitehall Times
December 18, 1875

Skenesborough 150 Years Ago (1825)
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

"Queen weather this. It rains one hour, snows the next, hails the next. Colder than the Arctic regions the next and warmer and springy the next while the rest of the day the wind blows or the weather cuts up to suit the whims of Old Probabilities."

"Support your own business" was the plea then as now. "We felt mad clear through when we saw wagons for sale in this place made in Indiana. Of course — if we cannot have wagons made here, the next best thing is to have them sold here. But it is a disgrace to the town that every blessed thing in this market has to come from abroad." Mr. Lotrace went on to describe the fine family wagons made in his shop "as good as — or better — than any wagon on sale in the village." Another item said: "Myron Greenough of Lotrace made a new pumper for the George Brett, Jr. Hose Company. It is finely painted and decorated as he is an artist."

How about this way to get to the Florida climate for winter? "A. W. Hyde and family expect to sail Friday for Florida from New York. They will spend the winter in that pleasant clime."

Put ashes on your icy sidewalks and receive our gratitude.

The board of canal commissioners ordered the canal to close 10 December. It was closed by an ice board sooner.

Scarlet fever prevails here to a very large extent.

On 18 December a race for all horses now owned in Whitehall took place on the canal.

Last year this column listed as correctly as possible the businesses in town. There were over 130. What a great chamber of commerce membership potential. The items were patterned after Mr. Wilkins of the Times in his Christmas advertising. This year 1875, he listed mainly the various stores for definite products. The population was approximately 4300.

The Whitehall Times
February 4, 1982

Whitehall in the 1830's
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

An inquiry for the background of a family, James McGinnis, wife Worthy Hummerston and son Robert arrived this past week from Diane Snyder Ptak of Albany.

The letter is composed of questions, the answers to which will give a fairly good portrait of the town in 1830. I think it might be interesting to follow.

1. Why would foreigners be attracted to Whitehall in 1830? The Champlain canal was completed to Waterford in 1824, but trade on it to Fort Edward had started on its first completed section by 1819. Contrary to first opinions of farmers, it did not stop trade but invigorated it with boatloads of produce gathered from both sides of Lake Champlain, from the east, and from the south. There was lively trade to Montreal, Albany and Boston with loads of marble, pot ash, lumber, hay and other farm produce. It was the beginning of an important canal era, and work was plentiful.
2. Why would Irish persons be attracted to Whitehall? Many Irish families came to Whitehall to work on the construction of the first Champlain canal and later on the railroad. Also economic conditions in Europe, especially Ireland, sent families and individuals to the United States for a "new life." Many entered the country via Montreal and Lake Champlain.
3. What, if any, migration of people from Connecticut to Whitehall occurred circa 1815? The area around Skenesborough (early Whitehall) including eastward into Vermont was conducive to young people eager to "go west" to hew out a home for themselves. This migration accounts for many of the pioneer families coming to this section before the Revolution, but their arrival was accelerated after the war.
4. What Protestant church was in existence in Whitehall at that time? The Congregational Church was organized in 1805. After meetings were held in churches, a church was built in 1813 in the northeastern part of town in the neighborhood of the Wrights. It existed until 1872. In 1810 the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church was organized and housed in a building provided by General John Williams and his son John who had bought up much of the land in the town of Whitehall. In 1819 the congregation was reorganized as the First Presbyterian Church of Whitehall. In 1826 the edifice was moved from its location on Williams Street to its present location on Broadway (formerly Church Street).
5. What Catholic Church? Catholic groups met in private homes and halls until 1841 when their first church, St. Anthony's, was constructed

at present intersection of Saunders Street and present Broadway. In 1868 the two language groups, French and Italian, separated and founded their own buildings. The Episcopal Church, still in existence, was organized in 1834. The East Whitehall Church was organized in 1822. The Methodist Church also in 1822 and the Baptist church in 1841.

6. What was the population in Whitehall in 1830? About that time the population was near 3500.
7. In your opinion, what "boat," commercial or other wise might a person be connected with in Whitehall if their occupation was described in the census as "boatman"? Boatman, as an occupation, might be one of several forms. He could be an owner of a boatyard producing either canal boats or lake steamers. He could be a worker in any of these yards. He could be one who worked on the cargo boats or packet passenger boats. He could be a boat captain. Boating was a very important industry and provided other occupations for the populace.
8. What books are there about the history of Whitehall? Johnson — History of Washington County, 1878. This general information about the county and specific data on each town. My only fault with it is that the biographical information about Philip Skene is inaccurate. Other books on the county are really copies of this one. Stone: History of Washington County; Gresham: History of Washington County and Queensbury; Curtis: Kathi of Skenesborough 1914. A novel but accurate historically.

The Whitehall Times **July 29, 1982**

Whitehall in the 1830's **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

The interview with "the little old lady under the hill" continues with a description of Whitehall in the 1830's with some added information.

"Of the churches there were only the Methodist (1832) and the Presbyterian (1819). The clergyman who officiated in the latter was Rev. Mr. Fleming. The building occupied by the society was moved in 1826 from the old burying ground on Williams Street. As time advanced it was moved to the rear of the lot and the present structure built in front."

(In 1838 the Trinity Episcopal building was constructed at the southwest corner of Division and present Broadway on the site of the Masonic Temple. The interviewee talked only of the village. In the town there was in this period also the First Congregational church, "The White Church," built in 1813, burned in 1834 and rebuilt by 1836. On the 1866 map it is located near the first four corners on the road to Sciota. Cornelius Jones was one of the first pastors. The East Whitehall Methodist Church was erected in 1826 and still stands.

"The schools were district ones with the exception of occasional select schools kept by individuals. Joseph Smith was one of the teachers. Another was Allen, a cousin of M. J. Myers, so long one of the leading merchants. He was an excellent teacher, and one who strictly enforced obedience, as some who are living at the present day can testify. He taught in the old academy which stood where Nathan Jillson's residence now stands (at the northwest corner of Center and Division streets);

"It was in that same building, the upper part of it, that the Episcopalians, when the society was organized, held their first services. They occupied it until the church was built, afterwards used by the Baptists, at the corner of Church and Division streets. The first settled clergyman was the Rev. Palmer Dyer, who on the first day of August, 1844, was drowned at Ausable Chasm, Keeseville. He was crossing a bridge at a point called High Bridge in the company of two ladies. He got one over safely, but in aiding the other, a log moved and though he helped her to a place of safety was himself precipitated to the stream below. His death left an empty place that was never filled."

The leading merchants of that day were Alfred (of the Griswold family of father and sons who were so influential in the economy of the village: M.J. Myers (nephew of Peter H. Myers who built on the corner in the vicinity of Barber's Clothing); the Blinn Bro's, (who developed the area south of the then village in the vicinity of the street named for them), and John C. Parke (a noted hotel man and merchant). They kept country stores where one could buy anything from silks and satins down to ten-penny nails.

"The drug stores were Keeler's and Mr. Anderson's. The latter stood on the ground now occupied by the hall that bears his name.

"There was but one bank. It was in the old stone building opposite the Clinton House."

To be continued.

The Whitehall Times

August 5, 1983

Whitehall in the 1830's

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The "little old lady under the hill" said the drug stores in Whitehall were Keeler's and Anderson's. Since last week's writing I have found the line of succession of drug stores that occupied Anderson hall.

In 1834 Andrew Anderson moved from the country — on the border of Wood Creek next to a man named Dewey — and bought the drug store of Lewis Keeler. Anderson kept the store until 1844 when he moved to Salem. Dr. Turner then purchased the business and kept it until he sold it to Edward W. Hall, the son of Dr. Atherton Hall, an outstanding doctor of Whitehall and father of the sons who built the mansions of the village.

The account of the village continued with some interesting facts of the canal importance to the town and village. "All the transportation from the south was by means of canal boats, not only for us but for the neighboring towns. To the latter the freight was

hauled by wagons. Calculations for winter consumption were made before the closing of navigation, for after that the only way of getting any supplies was by wheeling from Troy.

"There are those now (1802) who can call to mind a memorable time when the flour supply failed, the meal was all used and even rye flour could not be had for love or money. Just at this time, a steamer, the first of the season, came through the lake and brought to Whitehall a drove of horses with the men in charge. They expected to get food here but were unable to procure a single loaf of bread or even a cracker. In a day or two relief came. Some enterprising teamster brought a few loads from Troy and not long after the canal opened.

"The roads were very poor in those days and the teamsters had discouraging times, particularly after the spring and fall rains came on. Often times the wheels would sink into the clay to the very hubs and a brace of men would be required to help them out and on.

"During the season of fruits, twice each week boats would come from the south laden with fruit to supply the wants of our town's people. They stopped in front of the Hall House —then the Whitehall House — to which the people would hasten to secure their supplies of peaches, pears, melons, apples, or whatever the season afforded.

"When the packets — the passenger boats on the canal — came in sight, a bell that hung above what is now our foot bridge was rung to announce the arrival that the hotel keeper might have carriages and baggage wagons in attendance. The same bell is today sending forth its notes but now it calls together the children who gather at the Bell School house" over the hill. (Rev. Kellogg in his Historical Sketch of Whitehall claimed that that bell of the school house came from the first academy on Division Street when that building was destroyed).

"Oh, no there were not nearly as many houses, of course, as now. On the east side of the 'Creek' the buildings were widely scattered. Opposite Moshier's spring on Williams Street (south of Williams Street School and now covered) was the beginning of Judge Wheeler's Meadow where time and again I have been strawberrying. (In earlier times it was the military training ground). His residence is still (1882) standing on Wheeler Avenue. In those days it was considered almost a palace. He was a fine old gentleman, quiet and retiring in his manners and his public work being ended, spent his last days peacefully and happily in this home of his own building, in the society of his wife and sister. He had no children."

The Whitehall Times February 1, 1983

**1830's
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Interviews bring so much material that cannot be picked up from history books. This one printed in The Whitehall TIMES, 8 Nov. 1882 gives a picture of Whitehall in Its

younger days and emphasizes some of the beauty of the village that we still have. The Interviewer was Mrs. C. H. Bailey.

"There was an old woman
Lived under the hill,
And If She's not gone,
She lives there still."

She did indeed live "under the hill" when I knew her, for her house was built in a cranny, with a shelf of rock overhanging over its roof, but, bless you, it was not at the base of the mountain. It was far above the town and the lake, up where the bustle of barter and traffic was changed to a cheery hum, where sounds of strife never for a moment drowned the bird notes and the leaf whispers, and where the air was always pure and clear.

It was a remarkably small house, so small, indeed, that when I climbed the hill for a chat with the old woman, she begged me to sit with her on the porch, it was so much more roomy. This porch fronted the west and gave a pleasant outlook over the town, and the lake, and the country stretching toward the south. Here we seated ourselves, and knowing my wishes, this quaint little hostess proceeded to straighten her cap, smooth her apron over her knees, and with a faraway look in her eyes that told me she was back in years gone by, began this disconnected narrative of the Whitehall that used to be.

"My child, did you ever notice that, when the sun is going down behind the hills. It somehow flurries around, and gilds and paints up the commonest things as though it wanted to leave a good impression? (Sunrise and sunset over Skene and West mountains?)

"Now maybe memory paints the past in just such beautiful but exaggerated colors in my old eyes but It seems to me that the old town with its few buildings, plain people, and old-fashioned ways, was a great deal more comfortable than the Whitehall of today. Folks were more contented. They didn't expect big returns from small investments and so seldom were disappointed. Fortunes came slowly but they lasted longer. "There wasn't any railroad in those days — it was in '33 I think (the railroad came in 1848) when we came here from the north. There were two steamboats running on the lake between Whitehall and St. Johns, the Franklin and the Phoenix. They made pretty quick passages too, used to leave St. Johns in the afternoon, and reach here the next morning. Then there was a line of packets between here and Troy so that passengers from the north could go right through and be in Troy 24 hours after leaving Whitehall. There used to be a great deal of travel too. Why, my dear, I have known 60 passengers on their way south stop over here for breakfast. Such comfortable as it was too.

"What were the packets like? Well, something like our western canal boats in appearance, but with cabins nicely fitted up, and with every accommodation that the limited space could offer. They always had musicians on board and as the shadows of evening settled upon us, sweet notes that made one think of things good and pure, always went floating over the water. Hosea Farr and his cornet were well known in those days by all canal travelers, and when he played 'Watchman, Tell Me of The Night or Home, Sweet Home there were plenty of glistening eyes."

And just here the old woman leaned back in her chair with eyes closed and a hand back of her ear, as though the sound of those well known airs had come floating down to

her through the 50 years her memory had nudged, and she was loath to lose a note. (There will be more of these reminiscences.)

From Big Bear Lake, Calif.: information on the family of Lampman. Peter Lampman was on the 1850 census of Whitehall, wife Emily; Peter believed to be a son of the large family of Tabe Lampman of Swanton, Vt.

From Meriden, Conn.; Place of burial of Mrs. Esther (or Hester) Hurd Warner who died 30 March 1816, wife of Colonel Seth Warner. Son Israel lived in Whitehall. Son Seth Warner also lived in Whitehall for a time. It is thought that Israel Warner had a son William who remained at Whitehall after the remainder of that family left the area.

The Whitehall Times ??, 1979

The Bar - 1834 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

I have known, in general, where the Bar was located in Whitehall and have referred to it. This week in accessoring papers for the Resource Library I unearthed a paper that locates it.

In January, 1834, Henry G. Sargent, a civil engineer, made a report on a survey and estimate for a road on the west side of Lake Champlain from Whitehall north. He was commissioned by Peter Myers, Dennis Jones and Samuel Jillson, a central committee appointed in September, 1833, to procure such a survey.

There is a map of 1834 showing the canal and the buildings in the village at the north end. Unfortunately they are not named, but the Mr. Smith's Stone House belonged to Ezra Smith and according to the deed of Gustavus Buel's sale of the fishing tackle business, this Stone House was located in the vicinity of the present Meeting Place. Bradley Wright's store house doubtless was also in the vicinity of the southern end of the Bar.

I think a copy of the portion of Mr. Sargent's survey will give a picture of what the Bar was and where it ran. The paper describes the entire route surveyed to Port Henry:

“Having been employed by you to survey and estimate the probable cost of opening a road to the west side of Lake Champlain from the Village of White Hall northwardly, I have made the necessary examinations and herewith present you with a map (not included with the paper) and estimate of the same.

Previous to entering into a detailed statement of the result of my observations, it is proper to remark that the survey has not been made with a view of a definite location of the road, but simply to determine its practicability and cost of construction as nearly as can be attained by a preliminary survey.

The line of survey was commenced at Mr. Smith's Stone House on the Bar at the north end of the Village of White Hall. The Bar is a narrow strip of hard land that divides the lake from the marsh as exhibited on the map and continues several miles north of

White Hall. It is generally from two to three feet above low water and nearly the same below high water and is from thirty to sixty feet in width.

It is proposed to follow this Bar to near Bradley Wright's Store House; thence the line may be continued along the Bar to the intersection of the Ridge that forms the Elbow or by crossing a narrow part of the marsh to the margin of the main land, be constructed along the edge of the latter to the same point at the Ridge. Thence crossing the Ridge which contains an elevation of about fifty feet above the lake and in ten chains in width on the base, the line again intersects the Bar and continues along the same, crossing the mouth of South Bay and intersects the main land north of the Bay near Bells Point. Thence along the edge of the Main Land crossing several Bays and points of marsh to the north Bank of Cat Den Bay. The principal Bays or points of marsh crossed are Carey's Camp, Lindley Hole and Cat Den.

This part of the route is four miles and fifteen chains in length from White Hall and presents greater difficulties in the cost and permanent construction of the road than will necessarily be encountered on any other part of the route."

Mr. Sargent then gave his estimates for sections of a possible road: From Smith's Stone House to hard land west of marsh opposite Wright's Store House; embankment of earth and stone including necessary outside wall to guard against water and ice 5000 cubic yards at 20 cents per yard . . . \$1000

Thence to the Bar below the Elbow following the edge of the hard land and crossing the ridge or point of land that forms the Elbow — 144 rods, \$300. Thence to a point of hard land north of South Bay 143 ½ chains requiring 28.413 cubic yards of embankment at 20 cents, \$5,682.00.

The Whitehall Times **January 28, 1971**

1847

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Other real places were cited in "Life in Whitehall". One was the view of the meadows to the south. Miss Maude Adams wrote that a woman who lived in the Ackley Tavern, later the Adams home, could look north across the open land along Canal Street. If she saw company coming, she would have plenty of time to change her apron.

The Jillson slaughter house mentioned evidently was not placed near the tannery. The slaughter according, to the book, was near the hospital. Early historians have placed this on West Street near the Red Row, south of Saunders Street.

Jillson's tannery was on land behind the Williams Street School. When the property for this institution was purchased, the deed included this tannery land. A picture of it shows buildings, a fenced-in section, and a view across empty land looking toward West Mountain and Our Lady of Angels' spire.

The late Mrs. Harriet Bartholomew told me that as a child she, with others, enjoyed the forbidden pleasure of running around the edge of the big vat.

Entertaining and appalling, this picture of Whitehall in 1847 is a sordid one. It represents only a small section of Whitehall life dealing with only a small minority of Whitehall citizens. Sad to day, however, it is a picture that readers remember and repeat as typical of the village just as they relate the fictitious tale of Mrs. Skene's coffin.

The Whitehall Independent October 21, 1987

Reminiscences of Whitehall in 1848 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

From the Whitehall Democrat of 1848, the time that Wilson's Life in Ship Fever Time was written, comes this story of a traveler.

This person arrived by stage from the south in a heavy rainstorm. "The road from Glen's Falls, (as that place was earlier spelled) is the very site of the route taken by Burgoyne and his army when undertaking to pass down through the State of New York. Portions of it are, or were at that time, very swampy making it necessary to lay down a causeway of large logs for many miles over which to transport the troops and munitions of war. Some of the original logs yet remain and are to be seen along the route. It was formerly one of the very worst roads in the country but by filling in from time to time, it has been made tolerable and more passable but is far from ranking among the good state routes."

"After a doleful drive, we reached Whitehall late in the evening and found that those wishing to go north by the Lake Steamboat must wait until two o'clock tomorrow -- a nights repose --left us in a much better humor with ourselves and the world in general though it required some philosophy to so aggravating a delay, and complete waste as it were, of nearly a whole day, yet it seemed advisable to make the best of it. The sun rose mid flying clouds that swept in rapid succession from east to west across the heavens. The violence of the storm had broken during the night, though many of the fragments remained scattered during the night. The wind was blowing violently. The single street was running with mud and water and almost precluded the idea of walking. A glance from the window, however, was sufficient to convince one he would lose nothing by being confined to the house."

"Whitehall is situated at the mouth of Wood Creek, a little stream that empties into Lake Champlain at its head. It is a small place and would be quite insignificant were it not for the prominent position which it occupies being the terminus of an important canal; the grand depot of the railroad from Saratoga; the principal place at the head of Lake Champlain, and finally the great thoroughfare of travel between Canada and the United States. It is quite prettily situated in a little basin, formed by high and well wooded hills, and would be capable ,of presenting a picturesque if not striking appearance, were it not for the great want of taste displayed in originally laying out the place and in the style of the buildings.

To be continued next week.

The Whitehall Independent
October 28, 1987

Reminiscences of Whitehall in 1848
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The description of Whitehall in 1848 continues. "There is a great want of cleanliness and general police everywhere apparent and which cannot escape the eye of a visitor at first sight. In short it is just such a place as one would wish to visit but once and would with much reluctance be detained a second time. It is quite a business place, especially in the matter of lumber which is brought here in great quantities by the vessels on the Lake and exported on the canal. It enjoys a fine and extensive water privilege from Wood Creek, which is appropriated as the motive power of an extensive carpet factory (Wait's). One is immediately struck with the great proportion of Canadian French among the laboring class; almost every other man you meet has that peculiar cast of feature which stamps him as the native of regions north of the St. Lawrence. They speak a mongrel kind of patois, which is not French, English, or Indian, and is altogether quite unique. It seems like suddenly stepping into a foreign country and a little beyond the pale of civilization when one arrives at Whitehall, though there are some very respectable and refined people in the place no doubt.

The stout little Canadian pony is much in use here; and indeed many things about the spot savor more of Canada than the United States.

The advertisements in the 1840's newspapers have different names and occupations of the 1880's we have recently read.

Doctor's D. and Horace Pond were partners. They advertised as surgeon and physician.

We know the Wait Carpet Factory but not as the Whitehall Cloth Factory which was Wait's predecessor.

"Billy the Rigger" was William Cain, said maker and rigger at Dickenson's Forwarding Office.

H. W. Buel, half brother of Julio T. Buel of the trolling spoon had a variety store. House and Turner offered a "sleep in peace" Bed Bug Exterminator.

M. Richardson, north of Canal Street on the dock had a large collection of cabinet ware.

James and W.F. McGlee offered to keep all canal teams on the east side of Wood Creek near the lower bridge.

J. T. Wiswell was a merchant tailor opposite the Clinton House near the lower bridge.

C. L. Fisher in the Chapin building, corner of Division, sold trunks and valises.

Mitchell advertised his axe helve factory and D. H. Hendee, his daguerreotype miniatures.

William W. Prindle moved Prirtle's Exchange dry goods, groceries, liquor store to Warren Tanner's former store next door to Dr. D. S. Wright's drug store.

The Whitehall Times
September 16, 1971

1850

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Whitehall is a friendly place with hospitable people.

How many times have you had out of town guests exclaim over the warm welcome and excellent treatment they receive here? This hospitality has been evident from early times, as witness this 1800 diary account of John Russell Davis on a Journey through Massachusetts, Vermont and eastern New York:

"We let our horses eat an hour and then pressed on (from Orwell) for Whitehall to Simmon's Inn within 40 rods of Lake Champlain. I had the curiosity to take a walk to the lake. Here are a number of considerable vessels; I was told sometimes those of 30, 40 and 50 tons. We have had tolerable good roads. This Simmons is a very civil hospitable man; also his wife treated us with great respect. We put our horses to grass, dined and then he insisted upon giving our horses some oats, which we also accepted, and then gave us the whole which, after excuses, we also accepted and acknowledged his generosity.

"He appears to be a well disposed man and susceptible of good. He took a very affectionate farewell to us. We carried him a letter from his relatives who wrote him to treat us well which he punctually fulfilled."

XXX

Then about a hundred years later William Moore in his "Story of a Young Man's Trip Across Three States" gave this impression of this village:

"Soon after I came within sight of Whitehall with its smoke and a view of Champlain off to the right. Whitehall is full of factories lined along on either side of the Champlain canal, connecting the lake with Albany, 78 miles south. A beautiful feature of Whitehall is that the railroad runs down the main street where many of the better residences are.

Imagine a freight train coming down the street at the dead of night, especially when the houses of that street are on elevated plots, thereby enclosing the noise more."

This was in 1911. The houses are still in elevated plots but most of the iron fences that enclosed them are gone. A great deal of that train dust still clings to the attic floors, in spite of heavy cleaning.

XXX

I appreciate the many letters, telephone calls and observations I have received on this column. Corrections and information on people and events of Whitehall will be welcome.

The Whitehall Times
June 29, 1972

THE JOKER 1853
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

According to its fourth issue, THE JOKER was a neutral Journal published monthly beginning in October, 1853. By its March issue part of its masthead read "Never go around a mud puddle when you can wade through". Its ownership column said "A monthly journal Devoted to Phax, Pholly, Phun and Phrolix edited and published by Carlos Smith, second house north of the upper bridge, east side of the creek."

In our file there are four issues of this 8 1/2 by 11 1/2 paper. Volume 1, Numbers 4, 6, 8, 9. There is one issue in the file of the John Hancock House collection in Ticonderoga.

It would be interesting to know how long this little paper existed. One letter from Saratoga Springs called it "a spicy little sheet". Another from Utica said it's an "Incomparable little budget of fun".

The contents are varied. There are veiled threats: Certain people on Queen Street had better look out or they will catch a few lines and certain folks on Williams street should keep their mouths shut or in the warm weather flies will go in.

Original conundrums abound: Why is the one of the editors CHRONICLE like the edge of a meat axe and the other like a butcher? Because one is a Blount and the other a Skinner.

Issue number 6 proclaimed the success of the sheet. It listed its comic writers: Rev. Boanerges Buncome, D. D.; the Satirical "Thwacking;" the quaint and spicy "Mrs. Over the left"; the pretty poet "E--,"; out of town Goitbrooks and the humorous "Obediah Over the left."

Thwacking?' pokes fun at the social events of the village. He listed the balls and dances in the Military and the Chippewa Hall as cotillions, military, Firemen and Odd Fellow's balls. He laments these young people can't attend church on a stormy Sunday but can go from entertainment to entertainment in rain and snow.

Patent Sermon number four by Rev. Buncombe was entitled "Beware of Widders" He said guard well the highways and byways to your gizzards lest by a "koop de tat" they decoy you into the horrid mantrap of matrimony".

Goitboots from Fort Ann gave the matrimonial state in various communities in May, 1853. South Bay had the majority of the 29 town weddings, where "two nods and a wink" are considered an engagement". In Fort Ann not a young man had enough pewter to pay for the wedding ceremony. Welch Hollow would have two or three marriages. Cormstock's Landing had a dull market. At Johnny-Cake Corners things were quiet.

Things About Town column had for its heading "A Chlel's among ye taking Notes, and, faith, he'll print 'em". One item told of a thunder storm June 17 that tore the coat from a young lad's back and blistered his neck but no names were given.

Was the editor a Democrat? A notation reads: We have at last got a Democratic post master in our Village. Dr. Atherton Hall took possession of the office on the 18th inst.. Success to him.

A gentle hint to subscribers was this: "Rappings"
We had sweet dreams the other night,
When all around was still-
We dreamed we saw a host of folks
Pay up the Printer's bill!

The Whitehall Times
July 6, 1972

THE JOKER 1853
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

These four issues of THE JOKER had other interesting items. There was not much advertising but what there was is provocative for us who did not know the stores in those days. J. Haskell had a store on the east side of the creek at the end of the upper bridge in 1852. His produce listed was teas, sugars, coffee, butter, cheese, bread and crackers, potatoes and beans for family use and for Gentlemen, tobacco, snuff and, Segars of the best quality.

Mr. Haskell also advertised himself as a silver plate engraver at No. 3 .Smith Block.

The circus is still a big entertainment for old and young, as it was to a greater extent over a hundred years ago for there were not then a variety of things to attend. This advertisement read: R. Sands & Co. & G. C. Quick & Go's Circus and Menagerie will exhibit in this place on Tuesday, May 17, 1853. This circus and menagerie is the largest, most varied and highly talented exhibition ever witnessed under our canvass. Admission 25 cents. No half price.

Under an exciting heading of Fire! Fire! William L. Walker & Co's, ad proclaimed a fine supply of goods, of almost every description, which could be bought as cheap as in any store in the Village. There is no hint as to what kind of goods there were. The address was At the Upper Bridge, on the west side of the Creek.

Perhaps so few advertisements were placed in the paper because the merchants didn't like a note about another business which read like this: "There is a man on Canal Street who sells Oysters by the piece, Sugar and tea by the ounce, and other little items in proportion, whose soul is so small that it might dance a fandango in a mosquito's watch face. In buying he offers a penny, for which others give a quarter,

The JOKER copied from other papers also. Note this from the Whitehall CHRONICLE. "We have had it asserted . . . that no place this size can boast of so many really agreeable and pretty girls as Whitehall. A little fairy-formed, rosy-cheeked creature just tripped by our .office, one smile from whom would be enough to make a strong man perjure himself." Carlos Smith, editor of the; JOKER, was a printer by trade, according to gazetteers of the time. He lived on Saunders Street near Bellamy. At the time he was publishing the JOKER, John E. Watkins was publishing the Whitehall DEMOCRAT in Parke's Building on Canal Street, corner of Clinton Avenue.

On March 7 (11) 1871, Mr. Smith put out the first issue of the Washington County News. With its comments, jokes and conundrums the JOKER proved itself what

letters to the Editor proclaimed it: "a spicy little sheet." Would we have more issues of it.

The Whitehall Times
November 19, 1987

Visit to Whitehall in 1872
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Over the years visitors to Whitehall have written their impressions of the village and town. Even though there is repetition in the accounts there are usually some additional impressions.

This account came from Rev. D. Lull from New York City while he was a guest of Anson Parks on 14 July 1872 while he was away from the dusty, hot city among "the glorious lakes and hills of the Champlain region."

The village of Whitehall contains a thriving population of some five or six thousand. Located between two low mountain ridges at the head of Lake Champlain, the terminus of a canal, it has been, from the time of the earliest settlement, a focus of commercial transit and travel. It boasts of thrifty shops and stores, a few elegant mansions, well kept hotels, a convenient town hall, a Methodist, a Baptist, and Episcopal, a Presbyterian and two Catholic churches; but also does not boasts of its fifty or sixty, rum shops. These interlopers of trade and traffic are here, and effectually relieve the minds of all seekers of an earthly paradise of all fancy that is to be found in Whitehall.

This, like most of old and noted towns, has its historic and legendary interests. Near by our retreat is the site of a revolutionary barrack (probably the fort) and our host has gathered from the soil - which he was the first to break with plow - a basket full of sundry antique war instruments, which he has distributed among his numerous friends. The county is rife with incidents of war times, and tradition says that somewhere in the bed of the large creek that divides the town is a huge cannon crammed with gold and silver. Adventurers from far and near, even from England, have traversed and dredged the stream in a search of said cannon, but all, as yet, in vain. Treasure hunters with hazel and metallic rods have ranged the hills and valleys, in full quest of buried wealth.

"My health is already much improved by the bracing air and wholesome air I find here. I was found "wanting in flesh, being one hundred and eight. I am fed on fish and berries and other nature productions of the place, and have for beverages, milk, white pine tar, water, etc., and have had hunting, fishing and writing in abundance, and am assured by my generous host that my material of not my spiritual weight must be increased before I leave town."

Within the letter Rev. Lull told the story of the clairvoyant medium who sought to find the treasure by when a pick struck a blow that resounded, he fled in terror because he saw a "demon" in scarlet cap and coat. Also he recited the true story of Henry Francisco an over 134 year old man, interviewed in 1820 by a world traveler.

The Whitehall Times
November 25, 1987

Taintor's R.R. Guide 1872
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Said in describing Whitehall and its connection with tourism that the village stood at the head of Lake Champlain and a short branch of the railroad ran through a pleasantly shaded street from the station to the steamboat landing. High hills rose on both sides of the village, but the country was level and open to the southward. Whitehall was the largest market on the lake and owed its prosperity to that industry. At the Lake Champlain Station the travelers embarked on the steamer for the calm and delightful trips up the long and narrow lake to Plattsburgh or Burlington.

For the information and enticement of the tourist the Guide described the lake and its pure, bracing, and healthful atmosphere; the ever varying and ever beautiful landscape with the verdant and sloping Green Mountains;

For the rich farms and quiet villages of Vermont and New York; the rough forms and lofty summits of the Adirondacks are towering away to the west. Between these two mountainous areas, now narrow and stream-like, now broad and expansive, but ever placid and attractive ran the long and beautiful lake varying in width from a few feet to thirteen miles, its waters clear, deep, and cold and well stocked with fish of various kinds. In season there were wild ducks and all sorts of game. Its depth of 300 feet allowed the steamboats of the Lake Champlain Transportation Company of Whitehall to navigate.

This description of the route led to the advantages of traveling by the steamboats. **The Adirondack**, Captain William Anderson, was a new large boat in 1872, accommodating 1500 passengers. Elegantly furnished she was arranged for promenades and views of the scenery. The state rooms and berths were large. The table was supplied with all kinds of delicious luxuries, equaling if not excelling any hotel in the country.

The Vermont, Captain W.H. Flagg, was completed in 1871 was a companion of the Adirondack. She was furnished in the same style with chestnut and black walnut, native woods, (think of the house in Whitehall that contains these fine woods and others). Another steamer running at the same time with equal equipment was **United States**, Captain George Rushlow. This service preceded by only a few years the building of the extension of the railroad north and the decline of the steamboat travel from Whitehall.

Accompanying this travel information was mention of history of events in the lake area - Champlain part in naming it, the Battle of Plattsburgh in 1814, the French and Indian Wars, Valcour Island in 1776, battles of Bennington and Hubbardton and Burgoyne's March.

The Whitehall Times
June 28, 1973

June 1873
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A person walking through Canal Street must feel conscious that our village is growing rapidly. From the Railroad depot to the lower end of Canal Street is one vast stream of human beings, many of whom have market baskets on their arms, while others seem only to be walking out to see what is going on. Our village is fast assuming city proportions. Many new building lots are being disposed of by property holders who have opened new streets where there was but a short time since farms.

The Whitehall Times
August 2, 1973

July 1873
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

New Territory and Streets

This letter was In the 30 July Issue. To Whom It May Concern: Mr. Editor: I have noticed in times past, descriptive accounts of the Village of Whitehall, but they are apparently written by men interested in the old town, and jealous of the new.

The new town is located on elevated and healthy ground at the Junction of the Rensselaer and Saratoga Railroad with the Northern and Vermont railroads, near which are also the Champlain Canal and the famed Wood Creek of Revolutionary record. From within can be had as fine a view of Nature's loveliness and, beauty, as from any other place. The land I am trying to describe is owned by H. G. Burllegh, M. O. Blinn, the Boardman Estate, and the writer of this John P. Adams.

The business on the railroads and canal has doubled within two years and about 100 families have located in the new town. On my land I have located building lots on two streets running from Wood Creek to West Mountain, about 300 rods long and 50 feet wide. A map of the part which I offer for sale is at the office of the Chamberlain of the City of Troy: Hon. George C. Burdett. The Troy Press will please copy this notice and charge. J. P. Adams.

The Whitehall Times
August 30, 1973

August 1873
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

25 August a letter from Presbyterian Pastor John Lowrey stated that, in response to his request, two young men, Mr. McKee and Mr. Atwood, secured elevation figures for him. Thus, on 22 August 1873 above sea level Lake Champlain 97 feet.

Center of clock dial on the Presbyterian Church 134.5 feet above the lake; top of tower on V. V.W. Cook's house 145-feet; top of tower on Presbyterian Church 166 feet; top of Skene's hill 475 feet; top of Death Rock mountain, 760.5 feet.

The Whitehall Times
January 3, 1974

1873
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Whitehall in December, 1873, Whitehall Times.

Would we or would we not want these conditions back again that are described in a 1 Dec. letter to the editor?

"It is not enough that two of our principal streets have been surrendered up to a railroad company to enable them to run their trains past us, but they must needs convert a goodly share of Canal Street into a switching-ground, making day and night hideous from the jargon attending the making up of freight trains, rendering the street virtually useless for the passage of vehicles on account of the snow, and earth, and stones thrown out upon the street on each side of the track, and in frightening horses, etc. The property owners on Canal Street south of the tunnel suffer a material injury, and they are requested to meet on Wednesday evening, Dec. 3d, and present their grievances to the board of trustees and ask for an abatement of the nuisance. Where is our Street Commissioner that he allows the most important street in our village to be obstructed and blockaded?"

(The two streets, Church and Canal, occupied what is now Broadway, with Canal extending also along what is now Main Street. The 1933 reconstruction eliminated the railroad crossing that divided Church and South Canal Street, and closed off present Main Street.)

Arthur Yates, who attended the Academy of this village some years since, is now commander of the ironclad **Manhattan**. (This was the second Academy of Whitehall, located on Williams Street.)

The directors of the Whitehall Mutual Benefit Ice company contracted with Henry Waters to fill the ice house and secure same. They elected directors A. P. Cooke (president), E. A. Martin (secretary and treasurer), W. S. Eddy, S. K. Griswold, J. F. Clark, Wm. B. Eddy and George Brett.

3 December a thaw and rain caused the water in Wood Creek to rise rapidly and carry out the ice. Some of the heavy timbers of the bridge being built across the canal and Wood Creek were carried away, making the plank walk dangerous. (This bridge was on the location of the present Saunders Street Bridge.)

George Yule put on an omnibus to carry passengers to and from the depot, a great accommodation to the many patrons of the Yule house.

December 31 issue said: " Dangerous practice of coasting in our public streets should be stopped. Not only are our teams frightened by a dashing coaster but serious results to those indulging in the dangerous pastime are liable to occur." (Snowmobile vs. Flexible Flyers!)

The annual fair of the French Society was held at Anderson Hall for a week, beginning 22 December.

The doctors in Whitehall at this time were H. J. Ward, Wm. H. Renois, A. J. Long, B. R. Holcomb, Z. Herbert and A. P. Belden.

The Whitehall Times **April 18, 1974**

April 1874 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

April, 1874, Items Contained Some Humor of Sorts

The hens have commenced their laying: The difference between a hen and a lazy man; the former lays an egg every morning; the latter lays a bed. Tuck! Tuck! Tuck! Ca-ta-a-aw! Tuck!

Egg-ceedingly, Eggg-straordinary, Egg;zactly. Deacon William Snody of Dresden laid upon our table a goose egg large enough to have been laid by the historical goose whose cackling saved Rome. This egg measures 12 1/8 inches in circumference one way and 9 1/8 inches the other, it weighs exactly 14 ounces. The egg was laid last Wednesday and the mother is as well as can be expected, under the circumstances, Mr. Snody also presented us with two hen's eggs at the same time, measuring 6 1/2 by 8 1/4 inches. We, extend a cordial invitation to our brethren of the press to beat them there eggs. Trot out your goose gentlemen.

Wanted a servant girl who understands doing general housework; inquire at this office. - ; /:

A man writing poetically of the weather says: "The backbone of winter is broken, but its tail wags yet occasionally.

On 25 April, Saturday, a foot and a half of snow lay on the ground. It melted away rapidly. The roads were never in worse condition. A hand organist stood in the snow nearly a foot deep Monday evening and ground out "Molly Darling" while the robins were heard whistling in despair at the snow banks and horrible, squeaking of "Molly Darling" discords.

From the Post Office were gleaned two addresses: Sour by name; But sweet withal; Care Joe Wilson; Town of Whitehall and Go to thou yellow covered sheet, yet get; I mean it really. To Whitehall Town, N.Y. State; for M & Martin Feely.

Soon the sound of "Hurrah the lock, you thundering fool" will greet our ears.

Horning Scrape. A horning took place around the mountain last Sunday evening, the occasion being in honor of a re-united married couple, who had been estranged for some time.

New Cart: Dill and Butts, the live bill posters, have a new paste cart, and yet they are not a bit stuck up about it.

As the days grow longer, gas bills grow shorter. Prepare for house cleaning by laying in your soft soap and rain water.

A Whitehall woman refuses to be vaccinated because she does not want her arm to work on Sunday.

A Whitehaller entered a barber shop last Saturday. After being shaved he started to leave without paying when the barber remarked: If you lose your pocketbook, remember you didn't take it out here.

"Wittlings Cut from The Time's Funny Stick": A Whitehall dry goods clerk who sat down upon a thorn rose very quickly and remarked to a friend, that "he was more than ever convinced that there was no rose without a thorn." And a Whitehall banker, doing some business with a customer whose word was not considered binding, insisted on having terms put down on paper remarking that his customer's "pen was mightier than his word."

The Whitehall Times

April 23, 1975

April 1875

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

BRR ... thermometer *—... 20 degrees 5 April.

The great splash of the 90 foot covered railroad bridge as it fell into the canal south of the depot 5 April as a result of arson. It was rebuilt in 11 hours and 40 minutes.

Who-o-o! An owl 4 feet 6 inches from wing tip to wing tip caught.

The boom as the two-story wood blacksmith shop fell in on Williams street.

The shuffle of the dancers as the Feely Hose Company earned \$40 with O'Reilly's, orchestra playing.

The sound of the ice going out and the ice breakers whacks to break up the lodged cakes at the middle bridge.

The shrieks of the "ghost" of Philip Skene as she raced to keep ahead of the detective (a woman) determined to disrobe her on Skene Street.

The vocalization of mixed voices rehearsing in the Whitehall Musical Society for a concert to be held 15 April.

The music of the season's first organ grinder to appear 12 April.

"G'lang, there, Old Goody Two Shoes" as W. H. Shuffiebean" brought in his "canawl" horses and mule from pasture.

The bray of E. W. Hall's maltase mule as Ike Joseph drove the fruit cart around the streets.

The cadence of Longfellow's and Browning's poems being read at the Hawthorne Club, 8 April.

The shouts of temper as thumbs were pounded in the laying of carpets after house-cleaning — especially of that householder when he landed on a saucer full of sharp tacks.

The caulkers hammer announcing that the "Hoss Oshen" would soon be filled with boats. .

Scratch of pen on paper as good hearts signed a subscription paper to aid in the replacement of a cart man's horse.

The sadness of voices in noting the return of diphtheria to the village.

Voices raised in spelling bees at each street corner and in stores practicing for a spell down, especially those squeals from the millinery store where a rat intruded on the ladies practicing there.

The clang of tools as an iron foot bridge replaced the wooden one.

The sound of the last slate being placed on the new Baptist Church.

The exclamation of wonder as a 24-pound cannon ball was dug up 12 feet under a sewer in the canal wall.

The voices of "sidewalk" contractors as they told how the canal walls opposite The Times should be laid.

The sound of travel along the streets as the annual shifting of family and business was accomplished.

The Whitehall Times September 4, 1975

August 1875 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

George Brett had an exhibit at H. A. Griswold's one Friday of several fine specimens of potato bugs?

Boat riding in Wood Creek was quite fashionable about now. There were a good many row boats on the creek.

Artists were engaged in frescoing Hall's Opera House and the Baptist Church was being pushed to completion.

Members of each fire and hose company were meeting to make plans for a September muster.

Huckleberries were plentiful this year. They sold for eight cents a quart.

Hall House proprietors purchased a new omnibus, painted white with gold letters on top and sides.

Many people were using buckwheat flour on cabbages and other plants to save them from insects.

The Ku Klux Klan was at work Aug. 9 posting bills about the streets to advertise delinquents who were victimizing grocery men.

M. S. V. Keeter arrived.

Picnics were popular. An Aug. 11 a party held one at Carver's Falls and on the same day young masters and misses held one in J. R. Broughton's grove. Several families, rained out on the hill, repaired to H. Blinn's barn.

The Washington County Agricultural Society at its August meeting made plans to erect a new art building, poultry building, additional cattle sheds and to sink some wells.

The public schools opened Aug. 30.

Fifty-four loaded boats arrived Sunday, Aug. 15. The Six-Day Line that would not allow travel on Sunday evidently had long been forgotten.

Front gates were having an awful strain upon them in consequence of the moon putting in two appearances this month.

Excursions to see the wreck of the Champlain were popular. In spite of rainy weather Aug. 18 a large group journeyed to Westport accompanied by the Whitehall Cornet Band in their new uniforms.

W. W. Cooke was tendered a party for his 71st birthday. Every member of his family was present (Does anyone have a picture of the Cooke mansion?)

The most' artistic cottage on Lake George near Huletts Landing was said to be that of John Hall of Whitehall.

Ad.: If you wish to make your wife happy, buy a Bussey Range. (It had a reservoir attached.)

A young man was rowing across the canal. He was suddenly catapulted through the air when a tow rope was straightened underneath his boat.

The weather came off chilly Aug. 23. Overcoats and flannels were not uncomfortable. Coal dealers are doing a lively business.

The Whitehall Times

August 6, 1976

August 1876

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

From the Reynolds journal written by Thomas Reynolds who lately lived in these parts: A ride of a few hours (from Saratoga) brought us to Whitehall at the head of Lake Champlain. The town is surrounded with mountains on whose sides cling beautiful cottages, giving it the appearance of an old city or a European villa. Upwards of 40 years ago (1846) the senior of this journal lived and learned a new trade in Whitehall, and knew every man, woman, child, dog and cat in the place. Today he is a stranger among strangers and even the old landmarks, with few exceptions have disappeared. The witty Wilkins, with his invincible newspaper, has given celebrity to the romantic village. Next week we shall go down Lake Champlain in imagination as we did a few weeks ago in

reality — Lake Champlain sleeping between the Adirondacks and Green Mountains where "every breeze breathes health and every sound is but the echo of tranquility."

The Whitehall Times
September 28, 1978

September 1878
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

E. A. Martin invited the Sunday Schools of the Presbyterian and the Baptist, churches to a picnic at Gourley's Grove in Putnam. They went aboard the **Hooker** for their trip. How many people today going down the lake through the same waters think of describing the journey this way? "As we glided through the water without apparent effort, our progress is the very poetry of motion, so gently are we drawn along by the little tug in-advance. No true American can pass the shores of our beautiful lake, so redolent with historic memories without feeling his whole nature aroused to renewed loyalty as he recalls the struggle of our forefathers to gain independence so much enjoyed. We have no flourish of bugle or fife reminding us of martial exploits but in place of the band are many young voices."

The Whitehall Times
June 7, 1979

Whitehall in May 1879
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

"History of The Village and Its Present Business Interests," a reprint from the Troy Times, was run on the front page of the May 7, 1879, issue of The Whitehall Times, after a general history and sketch of Philip Skene, the article continued:

"During the War of 1812, Whitehall became the depot of large quantities of army and navy stores. The British fleet captured at Plattsburgh Sept. 11, 1814, was brought here.

"The first steamboat on Lake Champlain was launched here in 1819. The Champlain Canal was finished as far as the Hudson River at Fort Edward in 1809. From this period until the present system of railroads was established extending northward from the Hudson River, Whitehall occupied a position of high commercial prosperity, not second to any in the northern section of the state.

"This is now, to a large extent, changed. The myriads of white winged vessels which once traversed the waters of Lake Champlain, receiving and discharging their cargoes at Whitehall, have vanished and their places have been taken by another and smaller class, which are capable of passing through the canal, and which are now towed through the lake by steam power without transshipment of cargoes.

"Whitehall possesses great natural advantages for commanding lumber trade. It has opportunities for the construction of an extensive system of docking. An important improvement in this direction has been made by the railroad company in excavating a wide slip through the marsh for their roadbed to the main channel along the side of which a connecting track has been made. Whitehall possesses also a fine water power which at present is but partly utilized. It has three banks with a capital of \$100,000 each, all in prosperous condition.

"It still carried on a large mercantile business, having at least six important business blocks, besides numerous smaller establishments. It also continues to do a large wholesale and retail lumber trade. It has two heavy lumber manufacturing establishments, a grain mill, a tannery, several boat yards, an iron foundry, machine shops, and a sail loft. It has six public halls, a town hall, an opera house elegantly finished, with a seating capacity of 1500.

"The business of the N.Y. and L.C. Transportation is centered here. This company owns six steam tow boats, and numerous canal boats, and 200 horses and mules used for towing boats upon the canal. It has an extensive brick building upon its dock, used as a repair shop where every description of machinery appertaining to a steamboat can be repaired, or made.

"The business aspects of Whitehall are beginning to assume a most decided improvement. A system of renovation is going on among the merchants and a general appearance of renewed activity exists among all classes of business men which clearly foreshadows the new approach of the times."

The Whitehall Times September 13, 1979

Whitehall in August 1879 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

How many of us have rowed in Wood creek, which now contains the Champlain Canal for a great deal of its length? Take a side trip down Ryder Road and look north across the water and its greenery along the banks or continue to the north and see, the view of one of the many meanders the creek takes. It is as The Whitehall Time's said on 6 August 1879 "one of the most beautiful boat rides in the locality. For four or five miles the scenery is charming." Of course this was before the new canal was set over into the creek.

But the next week the paper said: "For the sake of decency, people should refrain from casting dead carcasses in Wood creek. The scenery along the banks of that stream is delightful, and many ladies and gentlemen avail themselves of the opportunity of enjoying a ride in row boats. But when the olfactory is regaled by the aroma of putrid animal matter, all the poetry of the charming scenery and beautiful waters are dashed to pieces. Throw dead carcasses somewhere else but in Wood Creek."

The Whitehall Times
September 20, 1979

1880

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In the CONSERVATIONIST for August-September is an interesting article "Into Arcadia by Canal Boat," by Robert F. Hall. It describes a trip of the Tilers, a group of artists, up the Hudson and through the Champlain Barge Canal to Whitehall.

In describing Whitehall, the author quoted from an article in SCRIBNER'S magazine of March, 1880, the same old story of Mrs. Skene, but this time it has some new twists. It says the Tory Major Skene secured 30,000 acres (it was 56,000), but he was a fraud. As told to the Tilers by Whitehall people, his wife received an annuity from England (she came from Ireland) "so long as her body is above ground." The poor woman died but Skene was able to keep the annuity coming for another eight years by forcing his servants to make affidavits that she was still alive. (Mrs. Skene died in 1772 and Philip went to England in 1774).

The story to the Tilers continued that people in Whitehall said they knew Mary Skene McFeran, a poor relation of the major's "who lived to a great age and remembered that for seven successive years she had made the sordid oath." (Skene had a son Andrew, two daughters, Mary and Katherine, and a sister Elizabeth, his only relatives in America. Mary never married and returned to England in 1779 from Canada. As for the seven successive years, her mother died in 1772 and the girls left Skenesborough in 1775, a period of three years, and their father was in England in 1774).

The naming of Whitehall also has a new twist in the telling. The "White" now has a title — "Colonel" and the "Hall" has become a major. As Mr. Holden researched, at the time the name was changed from Skenesborough to Whitehall in 1786 the only White was a farmer quite a distance from the village and the Hall for whom it was reputedly named was a lad of seven years.

But the article does mention the hospitality of Whitehall -- a characteristic for which the people are still noted, even though it emphasizes the characteristic of down grading our town and history.

The Whitehall Times
February 8, 1973

1882?

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

This continues the interview taken by Mrs. C. H. Bailey from a Senior Citizen of 1882.

We came in on the old Franklin, Captain Sherman. Your mother will probably remember him. He was afterward captain of the Burlington, and from his wonderful neat ways won the title of "Dandy Dick, of the Burlington." Poor Dick, his mind went adrift at last and never anchored until it reached the shore on the other side.

The boats used to land at the old stone store so long occupied by the N. T. Line (Northern Transportation Line). You can see it from here. Notice that long flight of stairs, stone they are, so easy of ascent, well, up those very steps my childish feet climbed to the street above. There were not as many buildings down there then as now. First came an old tumble down saw mill, then a grist mill, and after that a stone building used as a woolen mill and owned and occupied by a very eccentric woman.

(The N.T. Line was not established until 1857 so the old stone store evidently must have been there before. The saw mill and grist mill might well have been those of Bradley Wright who built them in Whitehall early history. The stone building was used as a woolen mill by one Millard. It was four stories high and bought afterwards by William Wait who ran an ingrain carpet mill.)

This woman, in time grew to be one of the terrors of my child life. As I remember her, I can't conceive of a person possessed of courage enough to oppose her. She ruled in affairs temporal and spiritual and woe-betide the clergyman who ventured to advance an idea in which she did not coincide. Even now I can hear the loud "Ahem" of disapproval with which she always checked any such attempt. Of a Sunday night in summer she might often be seen sitting in a great chair within an enclosure in the old burying ground on Williams Street, with an open Bible on her knees from which she only raised her eyes to glance at the marble headstones, one of which bore her own name and whose description was complete in all particulars, save the date of death.

A story used to be told about this strange character, the truth of which I cannot vouch for but which at least afforded amusement to those who knew her. (As long as the story is not detrimental I think such can be repeated).

After the factory had passed into other hands and she was left alone in the world, she occupied a house on Skene Street, occasionally making visits west where her children had settled. After one of these visits an old gentleman came from somewhere to visit this lady, and rumor at one declared that it was a suitor attracted by her fortune, and furthermore that she was inclined to accept. All would have gone happily had not the lover been so zealous. The morning after his arrival he arose early, and thinking to win favor built a rousing fire in the kitchen stove. This would have been very fine had Madame not been in the habit of keeping her shoes overnight in the oven, for the comfort they afforded her in the morning. It is needless to say the shoes burned up, the gentleman departed immediately and "Major" Millard's wedding never came off.

From Arizona comes a request for information on the Howard family. Noah was buried somewhere in Washington County. Benjamin moved from Fort Ann before 1810. Benjamin married Rhoda Birge of Northampton, Mass. His daughter Rhoda was born in Fort Ann and married Henry Tibbits.

The Whitehall Times
February 15, 1973

Mrs. Bailey' interview (cont.)
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Mrs. C. H. Bailey's account of the old woman interviewed continues: There were but two bridges over the creek in those days, the lower occupying the same place it does now and another where the footbridge stands. (The site of the lower bridge was over the natural dam where Philip Skene placed it. In 1849 David Wilson described it as being a covered bridge. According to early accounts the bridge "where the footbridge stands" was a regular bridge for travel, one end starting on the west side north of Division Street and slanting across the creek south of where the footbridge used to end.) Speaking of the upper bridge brings to mind a little incident. A hole came in the flooring and somehow or other it didn't get put in order. One summer evening when folks were crossing, someone heard a child's voice, and looking down through this hole saw a little girl sitting on a stone in the middle of the stream, the water in the creek was low, and singing like a bird as she waited for someone to rescue her from her unsafe position. How she escaped injury nobody knew, for she had fallen quite a distance. "I was just going over to grandma's house" was the childish explanation, as strong arms brought her up, "and I tumbled right through that great big place. I guess it was 'cause I runned away." What a dear child she was! And here the old woman forgetting that she was telling me of the town rather than the people, wandered off again.

That patient waiting down under the bridge was just a piece with her whole after life, for she grew to be a woman, and only a few months passed through the pearly gates. When trouble came, and she had her share, she never struggled or murmured, but sat with patient hands waiting for the One who sent the cloud to take it in His own good time. I hope when the old woman's work is over she may leave behind as long a record of quiet deeds well performed as did little Ellen. But bless me child, I forgot all about what we were talking about.

Requests: "Could you tell me If Alfred Stewart and Evangeline Rogers were married in Whitehall, July 3, 1875. My mother says they were married in Whitehall but the family Bible doesn't say where."

From Kansas: On the Eldred family, "My grandfather, Joseph Eldred, was born in Whitehall, Nov. 11, 1830, but I do not have the names of his parents or brothers or sisters or any Information before Joseph.

The Whitehall Times
February 22, 1973

Mrs. Bailey' interview (cont.)
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

And the old woman continued: Hotels? Oh, yes, we had hotels, though mostly we called them taverns and public houses. There was the Clinton House, down there where you come into Broad Street after crossing the lower bridge, kept by Warren Hitchcock, (The Clinton House was at the end of Clinton Street Bridge where the later Polly Block stood, on the west end of the creek. Julia Bascom told C. H. Holden that Charles Dickens was entertained in that house when he came through the area on his American trip. Warren Hitchcock kept the hotel from 1835 to 1843. He was a sheriff of Washington County 1829 to 1831 and was one of the founders of St. Paul's, now Trinity, Church), and farther up on the same street the brave old Phoenix. Brave indeed, for like the bird for which it was named, fire could not put it right of existence. (This Phoenix stood at the end of the flat-iron block west of the first three locks. It existed there in 1852. Later other buildings were on the same site, and another Phoenix was built across the creek near the present Elks.) Following on into Canal Street one came upon the Whitehall House on the old Hall House site, kept by John Parke.

Such grand parties were held at these hotels. Why, child, the dances of today are but ghosts of the old Clinton House balls. In those days we did not save our sport until the best of the day. The carriages were in attendance at one o'clock and we danced until six when tea was served. Then came a little social time in the parlors before dancing was resumed. At midnight came the grand supper. There was no standing up to eat either. Everybody sat down comfortable and enjoyed the good things before them. Did we dance any more? Of course! The affair was not officially closed until four in the morning. People were made of stronger stuff then than now. They lived plainer, worked harder, and as a general thing kept better hours, and so were ready for an occasional frolic if it was an all night one. I wonder if your father and mother don't remember one party In particular that came off at the Clinton House. I can't remember the year, but it was in Captain Alexander's time. He was a recruiting officer here, and had rooms over Buel's hat store. That building is still standing today. It was a grand military ball." And there the interview ended.

From California/Information wanted on Louis Desrochers, also known as Louis Rock, probably born in Whitehall April 3, 1862. His father also Louis Desrochers, supposedly.

From Missouri: Information wanted on parents and family of Asa Thomson born Washington County, 1829. Married Amanda Muqson, born in Rutland Co., 1846. Married 1866 and moved to Missouri. His parents Nathan and Sarah (Benson) Thomson. Asa had one brother, Edwin R. Thomson, associated with quarries at Pawlet.

**The Whitehall Independent
December 7, 1983**

1883

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

It is sometimes surprising to find what topics were written about in newspapers a century ago.

Evidently an editor of one of the papers in Whitehall, The Times or The Chronicle, had chided the clergymen of the community with his opinion that they were not on the right track in topics for sermons, which to him were dry as dust in platitudes. He exhorted them to exert themselves to think a little, even if it were irksome, to find topics on righteousness and temperance and judgment that would make the congregation tremble:

As a result, one clergyman decided to find out for himself what life was like in Whitehall on Saturday night. He went the rounds of the village and surprised his audience the next morning with his findings.

First he entered a place of pleasure to find prominent citizens playing euchre. Without looking up they asked him to take a hand, thinking no one entering there would find that invitation objectionable. In another place he was asked to bet that there was more ice in a square inch in Whitehall than there; was snow in Chenango County. He didn't have the necessary funds and had to decline the offer.

Next he went to the D & H railroad yard to watch the operation of what was known as "churning" the cars. A yard man told him blasphemically not to stand there like an Egyptian mummy but to get to the top of a car and set the brake. He preferred the mummy role and went off to visit the latest recruit of the Salvation Army.

His congregation heard his report the next morning and was interested, amazed and mortified. They heard he had gotten out of a rut, but were surprised that the facts were reported from a pulpit. What they didn't know at the time was that during that Sunday morning he had had the young men who attended all the churches that Sunday counted. He reported later that the number was only 120 and asked where they were.

The editor in the newspaper again reported this account, addressing the clergy "You are on the right track and getting hot. Go slumming again and see if you can rattle the dry bones in the valley of Jehosophat."

**The Whitehall Independent
December 14, 1983**

December 1883

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

On 5 December 1883, the Board of County Supervisors met in Whitehall for four days of meetings at the Grand Union Hotel (site of Chases' store). Each day's meeting

was opened with prayer by the local clergymen, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Lockward, Mr. Lowery, and Mr. McMillan. Morning and afternoon session were devoted to bills and reports. One piece of business was passed to approve paying six cents a mile both ways to take patients to the insane asylum.

There was time for entertainment. On Wednesday, Mr. Tefft gave them an informal reception at his office in the O. F. Davis Building. Thursday, they were invited by the Burleigh Corps to visit their rooms where a spread was prepared. There was a jolly time. They saw the quarters of the County Military Company, the parlors, drill room, and gymnasium. That evening the Independent Steamer Company held a social hop to which they were invited. Friday afternoon they were invited to view the public schools and were impressed with the education facilities. That evening, Judge Joseph Potter entertained the supervisors, the local lawyers, and the members of the press at his elegant residence on Potter Terrace. There were several courses at dinner. Judge Potter's affability and quick wit made him a prince of hosts. The evening was spent in conversation.

During the winter season, there was work for the men on the canal. Superintendent Shanahan had charge of the construction of a new waste weir at the head of the combination locks in the village. A new waste weir and spillway was constructed at Eastman's two miles south of the village and the prism was enlarged for a half mile south from a point two and a half miles from the village. The project employed 150 men. All but Eastman Spillway and the waste weir were done under the supervision of Mr. Malan._

The canal closed 30 November, although no boats had passed for three days. The last boat to clear was the W. F. Bascom, named after the collector of the Port of Whitehall. The load was pine lumber destined for New Hamburg.

Whitehall had a Jubilee Chorus among its musical companies. The members appeared in various entertainments. They were tenors A. Simmons and H. B. Skeels; baritones E. W. Skeels and E. W. Clark; basses A. McMillan, B. C. Senton, and A. Clark.

The firm of J. A. H. Adams F, Company was dissolved and a new firm under the name of J. G. Adams was formed. Henry Adams retired to his farm in West Haven James J. and George continued the boat building business as usual.

The water topic was again in the news. Firm decision had been made to use the water from W. W. Cook's farm well and from a reservoir to be built on West Mountain. Contractors were appearing to get information for bids.

The Whitehall Times

July 24, 1986

One Hundred Years Ago in Whitehall - 1886

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In early pictures of Broadway south of Canal Street, the houses were enclosed with iron fences. In July 1886 they had begun to disappear. John O'Neil started the change by sloping his lawn between his house and the sidewalk. W. B. Allen and Mrs.

John C. Parke enhanced their dwellings in the same way. This brought about editorial comment: "There never was a time in the history of Whitehall when property owners displayed so much enterprise about their residences as now." This suggests comparison with today's improvements in Whitehall.

The Whitehall Times **October 2, 1986**

A Northern Metropolis - 1886 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

The great prospects Whitehall may realize a village easy to suicide in Champlain Lake and Canal.

From the Albany Argus in December 1886.

"Why, hello, Argus! How do you happen up this way this cold morning?" exclaimed a fellow journalist as I stepped into the cozy office of Hall's Hotel, at Whitehall, last Tuesday morning. "Why didn't you wait until warmer weather before you came up?" Of course I know that the Argus manages to get around pretty much every where, at all seasons, but if you are going to write up Whitehall you should drop in on us when we look more beautiful, continued my friend. I assured him I would try to do the town justice, even though some evil-minded person had pulled the cork out of the North Pole several days ago and forgotten to stick it back in again.

Whitehall has, and certainly deserves, the title of the metropolis of that section of New York. She is a village that never falls asleep and one that is daily increasing in importance and fast coming to a position up near the head of the procession. Sanguine residents say that the time is coming when the village charter will not cover her, and then she will apply for and receive the title of a city. There is certainly plenty of room for a city, and a city in that part of New York would be a very valuable addition to the cities of the Empire State.

The Village Queerly Laid Out

Every one who has ever visited Whitehall has remarked the very peculiar manner in which the village is laid out.

Wood Creek, a stream which at Whitehall has the dimensions of a fair sized river, empties itself into Lake Champlain, which comes down into the village, and this creek, with the Champlain Canal beside it on the west, divides the town into halves. The creek courses, at Whitehall, through a deep, natural gully, so that the water level is, perhaps, twenty-five or thirty feet below the level of Canal Street (Main).

Running parallel with the canal is Canal Street, the principal street of the western half of the village. Upon Canal Street are located most of the large business houses, the post office, the newspapers, and some of the residences over on the other side of the creek they say, is the other half of the town.

Over there are located the largest dry goods firm E&K Griswold, the best hotel, and all the finest residences. Altogether the town has a peculiar appearance. It looks as though some one had hunted when laying the town out for a location just as

disadvantageous for pedestrianism or equine travel as possible and finally hit upon the location Whitehall now occupies. There is one thing certain, should anyone of its residents be over taken with a longing to end this existence, all he would have to do would be to step out on the porch of his house, give a good jump, and land in Wood Creek. Such a thing is hardly likely to happen, however, for the Whitehallians I saw looked contented and happy enough.

To be Continued

The Whitehall Times **October 23, 1986**

A Northern Metropolis - 1886 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

Will the Delaware and Hudson locate shops here?

There is a strong probability that the Delaware and Hudson will locate more extensive shops at Whitehall in the immediate future.

The village offers great inducements, promising that their property shall be exempted from taxation for ten years from the day work is commenced and subscribing liberally toward the proposed purchase of lands. Should the Delaware and Hudson Company locate their works for the Northern railroad department at Whitehall there can be no doubt that both the village and the road would derive benefit from the move. Oneonta is a living proof of the value of car shops in town. Oneonta a few years ago was almost an unheard of village. The Delaware and Hudson located their extensive shops there, employing from 1000 to 2000 men the year round, and Oneonta became almost instantly one of the most promising villages of the state. Whitehall would reap the same benefit, and since the probability of getting the shops within her corporation is so strong, the town feels encouraged to think she, too, is on the road to even greater prominence.

One great industry at Whitehall, brought there by the Delaware and Hudson, is the extensive coal yards. The village is used for a distributing station for all the lower ports of Canada not easily reached by railroad.

About 70,000 tons annually of coal from their mines is re-consigned from the office in Whitehall, which is managed by the genial Jesse L. Eddy. About 100,000 tons of coal goes direct from the mines in Pennsylvania to Montreal through Whitehall, usually. The coal trade in Canada is fast assuming vast proportions. Two years ago 20,000 tons were shipped to Montreal; last year 60,000 tons passed on the road, and this year the business will reach 100,000.

The village enjoys the advantage of the best water system in that part of the state. From the reserve, in the fall is 260 feet, which is more than sufficient to supply the whole village. About one year ago a stock company erected a dam in the creek and has placed it in readiness for an immense mill power, which as yet has not been used by anyone. There is a chance at Whitehall for some manufacturing firm to erect mills of the greatest capacity if only some such firm would locate there. No finer water power in the state could be found.

The gas company at Whitehall which furnished the village is doing very well. The gas is of good quality and burns satisfactory. Besides these industries there are the Whitehall Milling company and a dozen others.

The Whitehall Times **October 30, 1986**

The Banks, Schools, etc. - 1886 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

There are two banks in town, the old National Bank with Honorable H. G. Burliegh at the head, and A. C. Sawyer cashier (next north of Anderson Hall); and the Merchants National Bank, R. H. Cook president and I. M. Gay cashier (Key Bank). Both are on a good, sound footing, and in no danger of being suspended.

Like all prosperous villages, Whitehall is justly proud of her school system. "We don't take a back seat for anyone," remarked Editor Wilkins. The union free school graded, in charge of Professor A. G. Miller with a corps of ten teachers, is known as the Central building. This is an elegant brick edifice, fully capable of accommodating several hundred pupils. Besides this central school there are three primary schools with two teachers each in the town. The French Catholic Society has a school for their children, in addition making five schools for the village (Central building 1868-69; Bell school, corner of Blount and Lamb 1850's; Adams Street School, 1875; OLA Convent School, 1884; Wheeler Avenue School?).

Of churches there are six: Presbyterian, Methodist, Episcopal, Irish Catholic, French Catholic, Baptist (now ten). The Y.M.C.A. is in a prosperous condition and has a large membership. The village supports three good hotels, and the Griswold Music Hall, which is fitted up in fine shape, and supplies the place of Hall's Opera House which was burned down last March. Among the fine residents in the village are those of Judge Potter, E. W. Hall, W.H. Cooke, S. K. Griswold, Mrs. I. C. Griswold, and Editor Wilkins and family, Mrs. O. Bascom, and others. Among the heaviest real estate owners are S. K. Griswold, E. W. Hall, H. G. Burleigh, Judge Potter and W. H. Cooke.

Many Canal Boats Built

In the town of Whitehall there are 10,000 acres of hills and marshes. One will at once see that it is not a good farming section from the wavy nature of the land. The village of Whitehall is assessed for \$1,125,000 and the town for \$250,000. The great wealth of the town lies in its inhabitants, then.

At Whitehall are located extensive boat building yards, where probably three quarters of the boats that on the lake and the Champlain Canal are built.

Going south, there passed through the great locks 3,124 canal boats during the year just closed. Against 2,722 for the year 1885. This shows a great increase and goes to prove that the village industries are looking up.

At Whitehall are located Deputy Collector of Customs, Luke H. Carrington and the canal collector's office where all canal boats entering the Champlain Canal are cleared.

The Whitehall Times
October 30, 1986

Journalism - 1886
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The Widely quoted Whitehall Times is located in the village. The editor is W. A. Wilkins, a good old fashioned Democrat, and his paper enjoys the distinction of having been the first one to nominate Grover Cleveland for the Presidency. The Times is a staunch Democratic journal and one that never loses sight of its readers. It has an eventful career. It was established in 1824 and has enjoyed the following expressive titles: Whitehall Emporium, Whitehaller, Whitehall Democrat, the Sentinel, the American Sentinel, and in 1860 it became the Whitehall Times.

In 1873 editor Wilkins assumed control of the paper and since that day it has built itself up to goodly proportions. The Republican journal of the town is the Whitehall Chronicle, edited by the able W. H. Tefft.

The Argus enjoys the largest circulation of any in the city papers all through Whitehall and all around. The Troy Times has built up a fair Circulation but the Argus still leads by a large majority. It is every where accepted as authority.

Note: In 1974 a series of articles was researched for this column summarizing the history of journalism in Whitehall.

1823-1828 Whitehall Emporium, Editor Adams, first Whitehall newspaper.

1840 Whitehall Chronicle, publisher Hiram Blanchard; 1845 Whitehall Democrat publisher John E. Watkins; 1885 American Sentinel John G. and Julian A. Watkins, owner; 1860 Whitehall Times editor Hiram T. Blanchard; 1982 Whitehall Independent editor George Greenough.

1914-1915

Town Topics and the Lion lasted a brief time. Both The Whitehall Chronicle and Whitehall Times were produced by a series of well known and capable men during their history.

Advertisers in the paper during 1886 are now only names in our commercial history: A. G. Carver, grocery; Miner and Manville, lumber; W. F. Bascom, general insurance; Douglass and Martin, millinery and fancy goods; Nettie C. Manville, millinery; N. E. Foote, dentist; C. S.: Hanks, dentist; Lawrence; Corbett, drugs; J. Phil Graulick, merchant tailor; Wood and Hatchkiss, hardware; J.; Carmel, the Reliable, Clothing; R. Witherbee, groceries and general merchandise; P. W. Barny, drugs; F. H. Gaylord, clothing; John C. Earl, boots and shoes; S. K. Griswold, groceries and general; Harding and Bascom, clothing; O. A. Manville, drugs.

This is the end of the account written for the Albany Argus and copied by the Whitehall Times in 1886.

The Whitehall Times
November 20, 1986

Business, Canal and Tall Tales - 1886
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Business in Whitehall in 1886 was described as newspaper items of notable events. In the first week of December on a Monday 70 teams came to the village for "black diamonds" at \$4 per ton; it seemed cheaper to keep warm than to go cold. Whitehall merchants were selling goods, according to one item, all kinds of goods cheaper than any other town in Northern New York or Vermont.

It was asserted that people purchasing \$25 worth of any kind of goods could more than save their railroad fare by coming even a distance of 25 miles. The merchants had in abundance dry goods, groceries, clothing, hats, caps, boots and shoes, hardware, stoves, furniture, drugs, millinery goods. All these are in the stores of Whitehall today but not as specialty stores as hats, caps, boots and shoes, and millinery goods as there were in 1886.

On the canal 1886, canal collector's office reported a one-third gain in business over that of 1885. These were shipped before the decrease in water traffic took place after the coming of the railroad to the north in 1874. Lumber was still a large item; iron in the form of pig iron, bloom iron, castings and iron ware, iron and steel, railroad iron, and nails, spikes, and horse shoes, and iron ore. These were lard, tallow, and lard oil, apples in barrels, barley, potatoes, peas and beans by the bushel, and sugar by the pound. All these were carried in by 124 boats doing the year.

Ice was another commodity of importance. Vannier and Allen were enlarging their storage faculties. In 1897 they planned to have two ice wagons on the streets to accommodate their patrons.

Holiday goods for 1886 were stressed in advertisements a little differently described than present day ones: toilet cases, shawls, toques, Russian caps, plush goods, cane holders, umbrella stands, match safes, bouquet holders, hand mirrors, upholstered sleighs for children, box papers in plush, juvenile books, fancy goods, perfumes, trunks and oil cloths,

The Lake Champlain sea Serpent was considered a monster of great strength, speed, and a wonder of inland waters. On 1 December well known men in the vicinity of Willsboro had a lengthy sighting in a gentle south wind and light sea. A stretch of white foam about the length of Steamer Vermont traveled in the viewer's sight from Willsboro to Essex and the head was a dark body which churned the water into foam some of which was thrown into the air twenty feet. Its speed was judged about a mile a minute. These men who watched through glasses had always been doubters were now convinced that there was such a monster in Lake Champlain.

The Whitehall Times
December 18, 1886

Advertising - 1886
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In December 1886 business advertising was not confined to formal set boxes. Editorial comment was lively, often amusing, and just as effective. One issue tells about a businessman and his remarkable cat, the one who crossed the street with money in his mouth to buy his daily meal of meat. It read "Chauncey Bates deals extensively in first class groceries and provisions. His door is one door north of the post office, and the genial hand of fellowship is extended toward all who favor him with a call. He sells at a close margin and all goods are warranted the very best to be found in the markets. After you have traded well with him, he will trot out his wonderful cat and display the good points of his favorite. Of course, there have been other cats, and even the wonderful feline of Dane Trots and Worthing's feline precociousness have been exhibited, yet Chauncey Bates thinks that of all cats ever born or cats he has known, his own takes the cake - when it is hungry.

Blakeslee's dry goods, also on Broad Street, below the post office, had a few new markets - mantles, cloaks, and dolmans-on hand to be sold cheap to close them out. A new assortment of ladies' cashmere and fleece lined gloves had just arrived. Knit goods, tocques, Russian caps, blankets, quilts, and rough gloves were on hand.

With easy access by train in the late nineteenth century, Whitehallers could reach the stores in Troy and Albany round trip in a day. Advertisers from those two cities were prevalent. How many of these would be on your Christmas list from these markets - from Church and Phalon. Theirs was headquarters for brass goods - cane holders, brush broom holders, plaques, match safes, bouquet holder, easels, ash receiver and candlesticks.

O. A. Manville was showing the largest line of plush goods, toilet cases, albums, and leather goods. Come early while the supply lasts.

Mrs. Walter M. Coshburn wished to announce to the ladies that she was prepared to do everything in the line of hair work. She invited the ladies to examine her stock of goods in the show window of Cashburn's barbershop, 18 Broad Street, where orders could be left. The Misses Coshburn had a fine display of fancy needle work which they wished to sell cheap.

How to look stunning this Christmas season.

Wear jackets of un-dyed seal skin

Use long boas of light fluffy fur

The smallest girls wear Normandy cloaks and caps

Fur pelerlus or round capes reach almost to the waistline

Black Persian lambskin is very fashionable for jackets and mantles

Seal skins jackets are short jaunty coats that fit as smoothly as a tailor made cloth jacket

Muffs are larger than last year but are untrimmed.

The Whitehall Times
January 1, 1887

1887

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

A Happy New Year to All

Following the Albany "Argus" account on Whitehall, the Whitehall Times started the New Year of 1887 with this:

There is no town in this state possessing better facilities for manufacturing of any kind than Whitehall. Nature has made this place a great commercial gateway. Millions of dollars worth of merchandize and raw materials pass here, and the railroad, canal and lake offer the most commodious way of transportation. Shipments can be made from here with the greatest ease, and at very low tariffs. This is a fact that must rebound for the benefit of this place, and parties deserving to use any kind of manufactory, will find an excellent and never failing water power here and an abundant supply of pure hydrant water with a fall of 260 feet, sufficient to furnish water power for light running machinery. There are natural facilities that few villages offer. Then added to this, the town and village will exempt any manufacturing concern of \$5,000 or over capital from taxation for ten years. This is an item that will pay any party to look into.

The Water Power Company has a large building ready for occupancy. The company has lately mailed circulars broadcast over the country, offering to co-operate with any company desiring to establish themselves here.

The company offer to assist in transporting machinery to this place, and we know extraordinary inducements are offered by the Water Power Company. The Times believes in the future of Whitehall.

Whitehall's natural facilities for business and manufacturing must sooner or later be recognized by heavy capitalists. Don't let petty jealousy make anyone cold and apathetic: With the right sort of industries located here, a boom will follow, and then we all can enjoy prosperity.

The Whitehall Times
February 5, 1887

1887

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

J.W. Sponable from Kansas who wrote the approving description of Whitehall in 1885 penned another letter to the Whitehall Times. In this one he urged the village to action in acquiring a Federal post office building. He said the village was in need of a government owned building. Whitehall was a good place for people to visit on vacation for its excellent bold scenery, splendid water system, and gas of good quality, good churches and good roads. The people deserved such a building. The time was ripe. The

United States Government had a surplus of cash but none of it was going to country towns, only to large cities. The Post Office Department was an efficient, affluent business and Whitehall had plenty of good building material at reasonable prices and many good mechanics to do the work. By asking they could get it in a year. The Post Office of the present came in 1936.

The Whitehall Times **February 5, 1987**

1887

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

In this year Whitehall's industries included the manufacturing of row boats and canoes. By June 1887 many of these crafts were on Wood Creek for the entertainment of old and young alike.

Wood Creek was described as one of the most beautiful of any body of water in the locality. The stream wound around and between tall, stately rows of elms and maples whose broad branches hung across the still waters encouraging people to seek shade from the hot sun.

Direct access could be made from it to South Bay - another source of beauty and quiet. On 6 June a party went to South Bay for a canoe race. A boat house lay north of the Whitehall Times for repair as a rendezvous for small craft. The recreation was not all for the youth of the village. While families went together in small boats towed by a so called yacht. Such a party on 6 July left Wood Creek in row boats for Pike Brook and South Bay. The bridge was not there to impede progress.

The party was a family one made up of interrelations of the Manvilles, the Griswold, the Bascoms, and the Wilkins, all boats towed by Dr. Senton's yacht. They spent the day exploring the beauties of Pike Brook. At 5 p.m. they set out for the Diameter near the head of South Bay. Once there they spread lunch on the grass and then enjoyed the beauty of the spot. Some of the party ventured into the ravine and secured a quantity of ice perpetually there. On the return home the day's experiences were waived by a violent gale on South Bay, but there was no accident. These trips to South Bay were often listed in the news. Why isn't this beauty spot visited like this now?

On 13 July another party was reported. This time it was a moonlight picnic of young ladies and gentlemen in small boats that were towed by Dr. Senton's yacht to the bay.

Another form of pleasure in this year was bicycling. The village classified a bicycle as a carriage and as such it had no place on sidewalks.

The Whitehall Times
August 1981

A Diary of 1890
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Diaries are a primary source of information for many life styles. Oscar (Pete) LaFayette of School street owns such a dairy for the year 1890. It gives a year's story of the McFerran family that lived on the present Mary Dodge farm.

No matter how trite the entries may seem, the material of diaries presents a picture of everyday people who may not have appeared in headlines but were the sturdy backbone of our country.

This McFerran-Dodge farm lies along the Poultney River that empties into East Bay. It borders the marsh and is adjacent to the lake and is near South Bay. Members of the family are identified by given names. The author's name is not given but there was her husband George and his father, Leonard, Edna, Robert and Ella and their son Robbie. These latter ones were far enough away to have to be reached by buggy or sleigh. There were other relatives as the story progressed. They took Sunday dinners together and celebrated birthdays. The women occasionally spent a social afternoon together, a social habit that the present generation does not seem to have time to enjoy.

The year 1890 arrived with rain. The ground was so bare that traffic to the village of Whitehall was by cart. The men walked to the village for necessities and for an occasional evening out. This January the author had LaGrippe. Each time an illness occurred the pattern seemed to be the same. The doctor was sent for (not telephoned) but he didn't come. Word was sent again but he hadn't received the first call. After a third try, he arrived but the patient was almost well. After one member had LaGrippe, some other members came down with the same ailment.

The middle of January became very cold. (This was the year of the ice.) By 11 January father walked across the marsh to the village and George went to the Elbow. By 18 January the bay could be crossed with a team, and George and the wife crossed it to visit Mr. Ridgers. These visits seem always to be on a Sunday.

Events seem to be on a small scale to us today. Father bought a cow from George Stewart. It was butchered and taken to Hiram Skeel's store in the village. Two days later Father had to take part of it back. Coal was brought for the blacksmith shop in the red cutter. Mr. Plude bought 50 cents worth of straw and Mr. Barton, 50 cents worth of hay. The men spent a great deal of time mending harnesses and father spent most of January drawing manure from the barn. He had back trouble and wore a truss.

We learn that the family was Episcopalians for they heard Rev. McMillan preach his farewell sermon. The diary continues on a day to day account, showing the change of activities during the seasons and the occupations that provided a living for the small farmers of that time. More events will be forthcoming.

The Whitehall Times
August 13, 1981

A Diary of 1890
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

How did these people relieve the monotony of daily life? Well, the women seemed to be content with the family gatherings on Sundays and occasional rides in the buggy or sleigh according to season. They met each other on afternoons or had all day visits with friends who dropped in. Even Thanksgiving was not celebrated enough to mention and Christmas was noted with baking a cake.

The men were the ones to get away from the area. They made the visits to the village to buy or sell and to visit. George went to the circus in June and to the ball play in July. Both Albert and George went to Middle Granville for the races in August and in September to the fair in Sandy Hill. In December, Father went to Phineas Benjamin's for an oyster supper. The Robert and Ella spoken of in the last week's column were, according to Frank Brown, named Doig. It was from little Robbie that he much later bought land.

Animals played a large part in the financial life of this farm. There were horses Albert and Jessie and the dog Fannie who once bit Father. In April she had ten puppies which were drowned two days later. Cows were identified as to color — whiteface and the black heifer. Besides their own raised animals they bought from their neighbors and sold them; a cow and calf from George Stewart, \$20; a calf from Chapman; a yearling from Reynolds. Buyers were Hiram Skeel's meat market, Rock of the hotel and Hyatt. In November Rock paid 75 cents for a calf hide and \$5.91 for the meat.

Most of the cattle they raised seemed to be for meat, for there is only one mention of butter making. In the summer the cattle were kept on the hill. In the spring they were brought from the hill to the pasture. In October they were let into the meadow and in December they were put into the barn.

There were pigs, for in February Father went to the village to buy a pork barrel. There were sheep. In February they were on the hill; in June they were sheared by Edward Loomis. In July and August the lambs were sold to Rock and in November the sheep were put back on the hill.

An "old mare" was kept for driving especially by the women. The year started with a mustang and a mule but they were traded with Rodgers for a match and \$3. The team was traded with Earl. In June a horse was bought from Ed Billett and White's horse was kept in pasture. In September cattle were bought from Clark.

Then there was poultry. The author in May set a hen on ducks' eggs and one on turkeys' eggs and two turkeys on turkey eggs. In June a turkey and a hen came off with turkeys and another hen was set on ducks' eggs. In November, perhaps for the Thanksgiving season, she began to sell turkeys to Mr. Gailey, to Henry Stewart, to Rock, to Meers and to Hyatt. The ducks were dressed in November, perhaps also for Thanksgiving the next day, although the holiday was not mentioned.

The Whitehall Times
August 20, 1981

A Diary of 1890
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

1890 was the "Year of the ice" from South Bay and Lake Champlain. These were about the only available sources of supply in the state, and according to newspaper accounts, in the United States.

The McFarran farmers took advantage of the opportunity. The weather was vacillating. On New Years Day the ground was bare. On 11 January there was a five-inch cover of snow and on 13 January good sleighing. As a result the family drew ice for a Mr. Hyatt 12-15 February. On the last day they filled their own ice house in four hours and began to fill Robert's ice house with a wagon but there was much water on the ice.

By 26 February work on the ice had to stop but by 2 March men came to look at the condition of ice in the marsh and work started there the next day. Father worked days and some nights drawing with one horse. On 8 March the men hired out to one of the ice companies that had been formed, taking contracts by the 1,000 cakes.

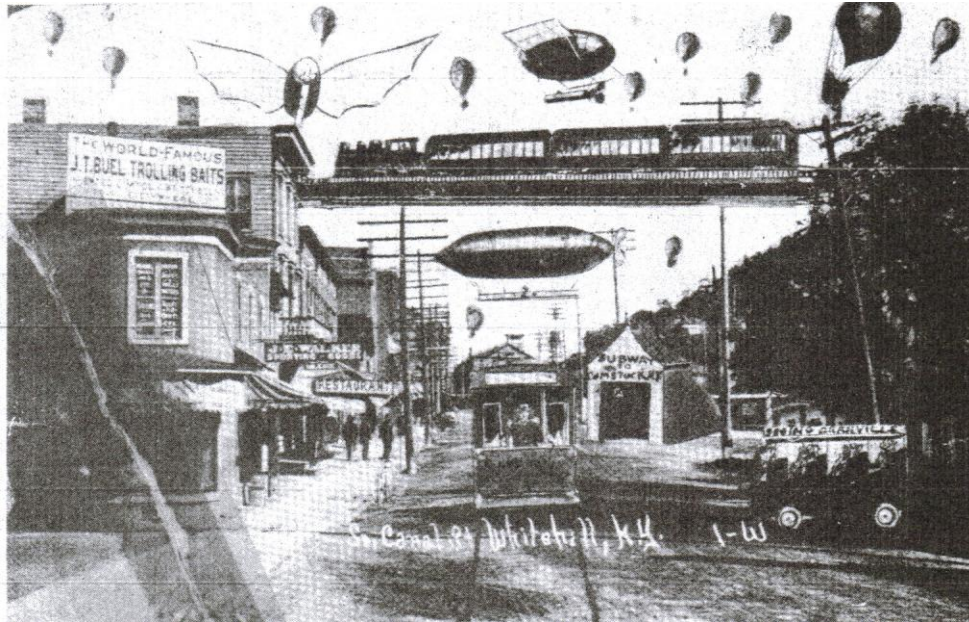
The McFarrans took advantage of all the opportunities offered by this ice harvest. On 14 March Father began work on a lighter. Drawing lumber from the village he finished it on 3 April and launched it. From then on the men drew hay and straw which they evidently had in abundance from their fields. They worked on a continuing basis.

The trips to South Bay seemed to average 11 hours. But this did not take into account the high water that stalled them or being wind-bound for hours at a time. The straw and hay were taken to the ice houses on South Bay and to the Mutual Ice Company which was nearer home as it was by the coal trestle. Other loads went to Witherbee and Martin Mills in the harbor. Garigon, who staked out an ice field on the nearby Collins farm, purchased tons of hay from them. In April they shipped ice from their ice houses until 5 May.

By 5 June the lighter was brought home and farm work turned to plowing, sowing oats, barley and making a garden. In another month harvesting of hay started another season.

The Whitehall Times
August 27, 1981

Whitehall "In the Future"
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian



The Granville Sentinel of 20 August 1981 answered a question about a postcard of Whitehall that is quite fanciful in imagination. The idea must have been copied for J. E. Walker brought out a card with the same features, the street scene being the only difference.

Copying the Sentinel's "the subway entrance" is at the south end of Riverside Park. The elevated train is running overhead on Canal Street, (above buildings that were removed with the railroad realignment). The trolley car for Granville is headed south into Skenesborough Drive waiting for passengers to board.

The sight-seeing bus is parked almost in front of the Whitehall Volunteer Fire department and dirigibles and balloons are busy over Main Street, renamed from Canal Street. In the corner of the card is "Published by J. E. Walker" who had a sporting goods store near the point of the triangle. The idea was that of Fay McFadden, a watch repairer and an amateur photographer of Granville.

A Diary of 1890

Throughout the diary entries told of other activities of the neighborhood that were common occurrences of such a life at that time. The cistern was cleaned as such a storage place had to be each year. Luckily a rain came and it was half filled the next day. The assessors' visit was noted. Robert must have been the school trustee, for he hired the school teacher in March, for the spring term. Soap was made in July and coal was purchased.

In October the author potted her plants for the winter, and in December the grain was taken to the village to be ground. The family owned property for they rented their tenant house for \$1 a month. The author had three wrappers during the year, having help in their sewing. On 9 August Mary Adams Doig was born.

Leonard and Edna worked on the Tisdale, a boat used to tow canal boats on the lake. All during the summer, beginning 30 April there are records of the Tisdale going out and coming in, and always the next day Edna came to visit.

Some research in the census records gives the idea that the author's name might have been Amy McFarran for George H. was her husband. The couples mentioned by first names Edward and Cora, Fred and Ida, George and Amy were in their 30's. Oscar and Ollie owned a farm on the other side of the village on the turnpike road. The Mr. Gailey to whom so many of the turkeys were sold was proprietor of the Hall House.

The diary records the life activities of a family that earned its living from the earth and brings back some labors that have been forgotten because they have been replaced by labor-saving devices or outmoded. Many of them are being practiced again as people return to a quieter way of living in a "back to the earth" simplicity.

The Whitehall Independent November 6, 1985

Daniel Whitehead's Recollections of Whitehall - 1896 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Interviews provide messages of many people, places, and events. Some can be on one topic; others can be a variety of topics, just as a conversation switches from one subject to another. This was the case in an interview with Daniel Whitehead in his home on Broadway in 1982 when he was 86 years old.

Daniel was born in Whitehall in 1896 on First Avenue. He attended Adams Street School. He remembered it as a two story building with first and second pupils on the first floor and the third grade on the second. From there he went for the rest of the grades and high school to Central Building between West Street and Lafayette, before the west ell was added in 1924. The high school was on the second floor west with the eighth grade on the east. These had sliding doors between so that the two rooms could be opened into one big room for assembly exercises in the morning. There were two recitation rooms.

There was a recollection of some teacher's names – Alice and Sue Hicks from Granville, a woman principal, Professor Andrews, and F. Wyland Bailey who left for the Albany Teachers Agency. When he left high school Daniel had no firm position. The County Superintendent of Schools came from Fort Ann and searched him out. She had need of a teacher for the Hulett's School. The school year had already started and if the school was not opened soon, State money would be lost. When he demurred she said "Don't worry; I'll show you how. Just get over to the trustee and get the job. He'll offer you five dollars a week, but hold out for twelve." This he did and received eleven. This was in the days when high school pupils of good grades could get a temporary position in a district school. It was also customary for the trustee to board the teacher; in fact it was

often the only reason for his taking the position. Daniel paid three dollars a week for board. Trustee Nolan had six children and Daniel said it made for lively times. He had eighteen pupils. They couldn't understand why he was willing to walk five miles over the mountain every weekend to go home. He did stick it out for the year, going to the railroad to catch a train, if there was one, or riding a freight car, as he knew all the railroad men.

Mr. Whitehead had several occupations during life. He went from teaching school to work in the Whitehall Post Office for two years. From there he went to the mail car on the railroad. He served in the Marine Corps and returned to the mail car working out of New York area, where he made seniority. He had a pass and could come to Whitehall often. He finally left that position and came to work in the silk mill where he worked for thirty five years.

There were two water troughs in the Village that Daniel remembered; one in front of the present The Hotel and one near the present Village Building. (Note: Kenneth Terry recollected that he had the chore of leading a string of his father's horses to this trough daily. He used to entice his friends to help him during the noon hour. Kenneth also remembered the thrilling rides he had on the backs of these horses when he was small and the horses seemed so high.)

Another recollection was that of Tubb Mountain, named back in 1790 for Zebulon Tubbs who owned a farm there. During the construction of Lock 12 and the setting of the canal over into Wood Creek bed this area held many shacks for the five hundred Italian workmen who were brought from New York. These people raised pig for some of their food. One pig in particular was a Sunday attraction for the young men of the Village. This animal would drink a whole bottle of beer and the boys went to watch. This area received much of the stone that had to be excavated for the space needed for Lock 12.

The Whitehall Independent

November 13, 1985

Daniel Whitehead's Recollections of Whitehall

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

NOTE: In last week's column, the directions in Central building were reversed! The high school rooms were on the east side of the building and the eighth grade was on the west as they were in the last years of the Central School.

When Daniel Whitehall was questioned about the canal, he described the route it took through what is now Riverside Park and the northern parking lot. The wall of the first canal is now the east wall of the Park. South was the so-called change bridge, the bridge where the tow animals were brought from the tow path across to be taken to the barn on Bellamy Street, or were unhitched from the boats. He spoke of the two coal yards in this vicinity, John O'Neil's and William J. Ryan's, who later had a boatyard across the canal on the playground where the last canal boat PRISCILLA was launched. Mr. Beckett bought out the O'Neil yard. Mr. Whitehead knew Mr. O'Neil, saying that he

came to Whitehall from Rutland and that he believed he bottled the blob-top bottles there, so many of which can be found around Whitehall. He had the large store Emporium on Main Street, owned much property and when he was a Village trustee was instrumental in the formation of the Riverside Park.

Another recollection was the razing of a part of the Village building that had been shattered during the construction of the canal. Earlier pictures show this destroyed section clearly. He also remembered the first bandstand. He also said he could not remember that the double house at the southwest corner of West and School Streets was ever a barn, as some have said because when it was rebuilt it had mush grain along the beams. It was the homes of Dr. Falkenbury and Dr. Carpenter.

Daniel married Ethel Clark 29 April, 1926. She was called from Fort Ann to work in the Champlain Silk Mill. She stayed at Mary Doig's home. The couple had three children, two of whom were born in Whitehall. There were nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild. On the family trips to Hulett's Landing, the grandchildren always pointed to the building along the way and said "That's where Grandpa used to teach," which had been made into a fine home. This great-grandchild had a maternal great-grandmother, Mrs. Clark, who lived to be 103 years old.

Another location that Mr. Whitehead cleared up was the Williamson boatyard. This was located on the canal bank in the near vicinity of the Mount Carmel building at the extension of Boardman Street. Here he built many canal boats over the years. His home was on West Street right near the street that was doubtless named for him, Williamson Alley or Avenue. In the 20's it had three houses on it. Mr. Williamson also owned a lumberyard near the depot from which Daniel used to draw loads of sawdust.

Interviews such as this can give so many delightful details often lost to younger members of the community.

* * * * *

Some people are making such thorough preparation for rainy days that they aren't enjoying today's sunshine.

The Whitehall Independent February 15, 1984

A Stroll in Whitehall - 1907 Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

After entering Syracuse University in 1907, a young Whitehall resident wrote an article of her memory of two streets in the village. Contrast the present scenes with the ones which she described.

Let us begin our walk at the depot and end at the post office. The depot itself does not differ much from those seen on the D & H line in smaller towns. It has the same color, is made of the same material - brick - and is oblong. It has a board platform running entirely around and a low broad roof to keep rain and sun from the travelers. It reminds one of a bungalow transported from a southern clime or a large wigwam of a Zulu chief.

As we continue our walk we notice on our left the church of Our Lady of Angels. Its tall steeple is crowned with a remarkable sized cross, one which can be seen far out in the country. (This church was razed in 2008, kb) The doors stand open hospitably. A little farther on, on our right, is the Y.M.C.A., a large red brick building purposely designed for the work. The sun shines brightly on large plate glass windows and on the bronze tablet over the entrance. One might notice on both sides of the street the strange contrast between the beautiful residences and the little coal begrimed houses which lie like a blot around their more pretentious neighbors.

Now we come to a "parting of the ways," and here, perhaps for the first time, we notice that the railroad track runs through the middle of the street and a little further on disappears in a tunnel. Let us therefore follow the line of the track and then return to the more important street.

As we stroll down the side street, appropriately Church Street, we notice the Trinity Church, set far back from the walk and almost hidden among the trees. We can get a glimpse of the luxurious ivy running over the front. Around the church is a tall iron spiked fence keeping would be intruders off the velvety grass. Just at this point begins the tunnel, open at first for a little way and then running under the street. Soon we come to the Methodist Church, built in the old fashioned way. The entrance was right on the ground, no steps leading up from the walk. The trees make it seem lower than it really is but keep it cool and shady.

One more church, still more imposing than the last two, is the Presbyterian. Six huge pillars, painted like the rest of the church, in light brown, form a portico to which a broad flight of steps lead. The construction instantly suggests some old temple at Athens. Leaving this we come in a short time to the end of the street, where the tunnel again becomes open and the track leads far out into the distance.

Now let us go back to the junction of the two streets and walk down the main street, Canal Street ... which will be done next week.

The Whitehall Independent

February 22, 1984

A Stroll in Whitehall - 1907

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

The young lady in her stroll around town returned from Church Street at the north end of the tunnel to the juncture of the two streets and proceeded to walk down Canal Street, later Main Street.

She continued:

It is not necessary to go very far before one realizes the reason for the name because the Champlain Canal runs side by side with the paved street. Then too, the creek, its waters clear and deep, flows parallel to both the creek and the street into the lake. Across these two streams large bridges are erected, bearing the warning "Five dollars fine for driving faster than a walk."

In this way the street is divided, part being on one side of the canal and part on the other. Large stores and small ones of all descriptions from those selling "dry" goods down to the saloons flourish and encourage trade. Typical men of that street, showing in their faces the signs of dissipation, lounge around the saloons and the boxes placed on its dirty sidewalks.

Almost at the end of the street we can see the work that is going on, for the great large canal. One old historic "flat iron" building, the first town hall, has had to suffer in the general raid of prosperity and is gradually being torn down. We look across the canal at this point and see a small cannon placed on the cliff and pointing towards the lake. It is a memorial to the soldiers who fought in defense of Fort Whitehall. (Memorial to the soldiers of the Civil War).

Now turning an unexpected corner we can finish our walk in the usual way, for in "old Whitehall" everybody, no matter where he may be going, always is sure to stroll as far as the post office. It is the trysting place of lovers, the rendezvous for all friends, the council chamber for the business men, and the first hiding place of runaway youngsters who should be in bed. There the gossip and the news of the entire town is dispersed; there new plans are formed to create news. Here we will stay until the arrival of the mail and watch the entire drama.

Here we leave the short investigation of two of the principal streets. Nature intended to make them beautiful, but man has marred them. Throughout the whole town a careless air prevails, it's a way we have in Old Whitehall to drive dull cares away. All awaits the magic touch of good business to tear away cobwebs and leave substance.

The Whitehall Independent **August 9, 1973**

A Poem Describing Whitehall - 1909 **Doris B. Morton, Town Historian**

The following poem was discovered in a scrapbook given to Skenesborough Museum by Mrs. Roxana Blackmore. The item is undated but according to the rest of the clippings was about 1909. Miss Ada McFerran visited Kansas City where she met poet Frederick Atwood, a native of Whitehall. In the book he presented to her was the poem he wrote of his memories of Whitehall.

WHITEHALL
Nestled in between the hills Down whose rugged sides the
rills
Leap and laugh 'mid daffodils,
Lies Whitehall,
Thru the middle of the town Wood Creek carries water
down
To the bay upon which frown Mountains, tall.
And there, too, Champlain's
Canal

With its locks tyrannical Holds the flood a criminal,
At Whitehall.
There on the towpath plods
the mule
Careless of the ridicule
That, tho his ev'ry rule,
Can't appal.
But he's mulish just the
same,
Kicks so hard, yet looks so
tame
As any brute that ever
came
To Whitehall.
Still I've come to think that
he
Does about the same as we
Would want to do were we
to be
In his stall.
East-Nor'-east, as sailors say,
My birthplace was not far
away:
Six miles, to be exact, it lay
From Whitehall.
Vermont's high hills rose
to the east,
Crowned evergreen as for
a feast,
Until to mountain-peaks increased
That verdant wall.
And westward on the horison's brim.
The Adirondacks massive, grim,
Stretched northward farther and more dim
From Whitehall.
To me those Titan walls
hemmed in
A mighty world, wherein
the din
Seemed surely great enough
to win
The hearts of all.
And when a boy, I could
not see
What could prevent man,
bird or bee

From being wild with ecstasy
In Whitehall.
I thought that town was near
the skies,
And had I had a chance
to rise
I would have said, "This
will suffice,
You needn't call."
And there were streamers
on the bay,
And yachts and row-boats
were at play,
And rafts and barges always
lay
At Whitehall.
The water filled me with
delight;
At sight of it my eyes grew
bright,
I'd run away - which wasn't
Right!
To see a fall.
And there were other things
to see
That always interested me,
And made me ever want to be
In Whitehall.
The massive piles of lumber
there,
The smokestacks tall that
rose in air
So very high they made me
stare,
When I was small.
The railroad ran right in
the street;
It wasn't very nice to meet,
With horses skittish, young and fleet,
In Whitehall.
Then, too, that tunnel took
my eye,
And made me wonder when
and why
They went straight thru a hill so high;
It made me crawl!

And there were endless
things to buy,
If one had cents; it made
me sigh
Most ev'ry time I drew nigh
To Whitehall.
My wealth was small
ofttime non est|-
Which, like as not, was for
the best,
For had I worn old Croesus'
vest,
Id've bought it all!

The Whitehall Times
January 14, 1988

1911

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Descriptions of Whitehall are fascinating. Although they are basically the same there is always some new. This one is taken from the commercial History of New York State of 1911.

"The Village of Whitehall lies within the Town of the same name in the northern part of the county of Washington. The town embraces the head of Lake Champlain and is bounded in the northwest by the historic South Bay and the northeast by the almost equally historic East Bay, which is the burial place of the American and English fleets which gained renown in the fierce fight of Plattsburgh that broke the English power on the frontier. The surface of the town, which covers about 30,000 acres, is hilly and rough, with numerous fertile valleys. The principal industries are farming and raising stock. The village lies at the head of the lake, in a valley, very narrow at that point - the falls of Wood Creek - but broadening out to the south at nearly right angles; the streets and buildings ranging along the base and slopes of the two opposite mountains, with the center for the most part lowlands, subject to overflow at every flood. There are settlements at the Elbow and "Around the Mountain," both within the village limits with the lake and a broad marsh between them. The superficial area of the village is large but the major portion of it is uninhabitable, partly because of its mountainous character and partly because it is a marsh.

While Whitehall formerly was considered unhealthful it has of late years acquired a reputation for healthfulness on present statistics show that there are few places with a lower death rate. The population at this time was listed in the town as 5,869 and in the village as 4,917.

The Whitehall Times
July 7, 1976

Scenic Waters of Skenesborough
Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

How long ago has it been since you looked up South bay from the bridge to really see the mountains on each side closing in as do the mountains along Norwegian fiords — or watched the mountains as you come around the end of Palmerton Range along Route 149? Have you had an opportunity to go down the lake to see the land and water much as the visiting Indians, the white transients and Philip Skene must have seen them?

Recently a long time wish was granted when Mrs. Gladys Juckett and Dorothy and Ronald LaRose took me from the launching dock down South Bay under the railroad bridge into Lake Champlain, then up East bay into the Poultney River.

With no buildings in sight it is easy to imagine you are seeing what those early people saw — the Champlain clay colored water, the lush-ness of the trees along the banks, the rock cliffs ending steeply in the water. Put's Rock shows that the general could easily have hidden his few soldiers there to ambush the French and Indians in 1758. The anticlines along East Bay give evidence of nature's forces that pressed the earth's surface into folds. The colored layers of the cliffs prove that metamorphic rocks were formed with the erosion of the volcanic upheavals; the glimpses of cleared land along the river suggest the intervals along which the early people settled.

Today the fishermen and the travelers in cruisers see these sights that earlier Whitehallers saw when they went on picnics up South bay to the Diameter where they cooled melons and drinks in the cold stream there or were pushed on barges down Lake Champlain for a day's outing at the ruins of Fort Frederick or Fort Ticonderoga.

The purpose of this present-day trip was to search out a cemetery that lies on the right bank of the Poultney River. Thirty years ago its stones stood in orderly rows in memory of people who lived in the vicinity. Today buried under a mass of wild roses and interlaced with cow paths, the stones are flat and broken and difficult to uncover. Enough of some was accessible to learn that the plot was a private family cemetery overlooking the Poultney, a quiet peaceful spot.

The names of the families are Collins, Watkins and Tupper. The earliest burial found was that of Miles Tupper in 1829, aged 18. The next was Caroline Collins in 1838, followed by Susannah Chilson Collins in 1839. One stone was decorated with a verse so prevalent in the early part of the 19th century.

This is one more cemetery to be placed on the maps of Whitehall for the continuing resources research for Washington County. Sentimentally it is good to know that, despite the condition of the markers, the spot still is a beautiful one for those who were buried there so long ago.

The Whitehall Independent

February 26, 1986

1986

Doris B. Morton, Town Historian

Letters from Las Vegas are being received by the Town Historian of Whitehall seeking information about the Town. It would seem that Whitehall is to be a target tourist attraction this summer.

Why? The answer is simple when you know that an article entitled "Navy's birthplace proud of its place in history" is on the front page of the travel section of Las Vegas Review-Journal with accompanying pictures.

This is the work of a native Whitehaller, Cathy (Senecal) Tobin, the travel editor of that paper. The pictures are those of her mother, Carol Senecal, taken this past fall. Cathy's descriptive material is fresh, vivid, and enticing. Listen and picture the sights as she describes them. We are so used to these scenes but they take on a new meaning through her pen. "The muddy water of the canal lapped against the stone walls of the lock as the barges made their way into the last lock for boats leading north in the Champlain Barge Canal." "The echoing rumble of autos crossing the steel bridge south of the lock drowned out the chug of the tugs and other boats." The paths leading into the Village by road, train, and canal are clearly given, as well as the neighboring sites that the tourist can go beyond to see. "Whitehall's Downtown District was placed on the National Register of Historic Sites and the residents are now promoting restoration of the area. Many of the present businesses that housed numerous other enterprises throughout their history are older than the present day residents. And many are finding a new life through the efforts of concerned citizens, who hope to keep their bit of history alive and lure additional tourists at the same time." A new question is becoming uppermost, especially among the younger people, "What can I do to help?"

"Many of the early homes in the area will also be of interest to Victorian home buffs, artists, photographers, and others." Skene Manor, "The Castle on the Hill" is mentioned. "A drive up the winding residential street is well worth the time added to any visit, simply for the view offered from the parking lot of the eatery." This building, as we know, is also on the National Register.

Visits for children are stressed from their being held up to see the boats in the lock, their play in the picnic area, and the exhibits in Skenesborough Museum for which she states: "Skenesborough Museum is home to many exhibits in the area's transportation and Navy history. A family visit to this museum will not leave the children whining that they have to visit another museum."

"Outside the building the skeletal remains of one of the early vessels used on the lake is displayed as well as a caboose used on the railroad system. Both are a delight to youngsters. Inside the children will be as fascinated as the adults with the doll room, complete with carriages, elegant dolls, and even puppets." A recent addition for children is a play corner where both boys and girls can dress up in costume and "shoot" guns.

It is a pleasure to know in written form that Whitehall is remembered and extolled in the states from which many of our summer visitors come.